

Wednesday June 10 1998

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The Guardian

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Love and murder in Tenerife

The dark side of paradise

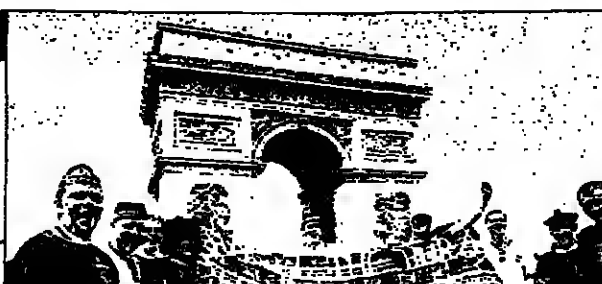
G2 with European weather



World Cup

Here we go!

G2 pages 8-9



Society

In search of El Dorado

G2 pages 12-13

World Cup kick-off

Workers of the world unite - to watch TV

Jamie Wilson

IT COULD be the biggest test of their managerial careers. While Glenn Hoddle and Craig Brown deal with the tension in France, factory and office bosses back home face a gruelling battle to stop the wheels of industry and commerce falling off as the World Cup kicks off in Paris today.

With almost a third of all men planning to take time off to watch the tournament and some already preparing to go absent without leave during crucial matches, the cost could run into millions.

Employers are going to extreme lengths, from piping live commentary through the Tannoy system to stopping production during crucial games, to keep what's left of their workforce happy.

Twenty-eight per cent of men and 6 per cent of women in the UK plan to take time off. "Predictably men are more likely to be taking time off during the World Cup, leaving their female colleagues to keep the balls in the air at work," said Melissa Compton-Edwards of the Institute of Personnel Development, which commissioned a survey into working intentions during the World Cup.

More than half of those who will take paid leave, one in four will take advantage of flexi-time and 16 per cent will take unpaid leave. The survey of 1,200 workers found.

Employers in Scotland appear to be making the most effort to accommodate the workforce, changing shift times in factories and installing television.

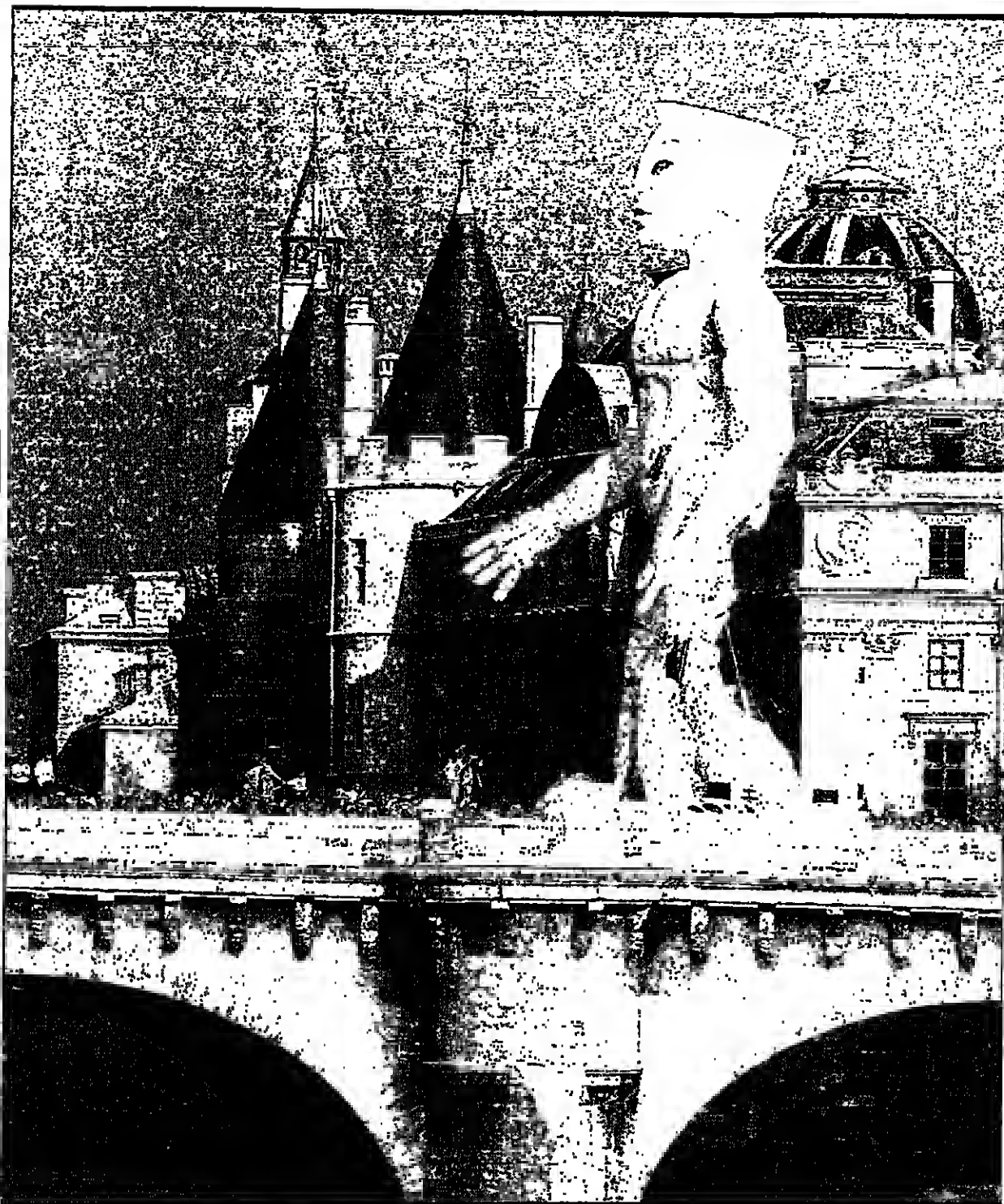
One office is reported to be supplying pies and Bovril to help workers replicate a genuine terrace atmosphere. The Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar - perhaps a little embarrassed by the fact that he has got a ticket, albeit in an official capacity - has given 6,000 civil servants in Edinburgh the option of leaving early for today's Brazil game.

The first big test of company versus country in England will be when Glenn Hoddle's men kick off their World Cup campaign against Tunisia at 1.30pm on Monday.

Employers hope they have done enough to avoid mass absenteeism, but London could be badly hit. The combined effect of the World Cup and a planned tube strike could see as many as 350,000 of the city's 3.5 million workers taking the day off.

The Co-operative Bank is installing large screen TVs in its telephone banking call centres to allow staff to watch key World Cup fixtures, while workers at Peugeot's car plant in Coventry will be able to listen to live commentary.

Leader comment, page 9;
Sport, pages 14-16;
Real Lives, G2



A giant figure, representing Asians, in Paris yesterday during World Cup opening celebrations. PHOTOGRAPH: PETER MULLER

Collymore 'attacks Ulrika' in bar

Lucy Patton

ULRIKA Jonsson and her partner, Stan Collymore, were involved in a "heated incident" in a Paris bar in which the footballer allegedly hit and kicked the television presenter.

Collymore's agent last night confirmed there had been an "altercation". Witnesses said they saw Aston Villa's £7 million striker hitting and kicking Ms Jonsson at a late-night party for Tartan Army fans at the Anld Alliance pub on Monday night.

Paul Stratford, Collymore's adviser and agent, said: "Last night my client Stan Collymore was involved in an altercation. It resulted from an argument that had developed throughout the day between Stan and Ulrika. The argument culminated in a heated incident within the confines of the pub."

"I have since been able to speak with Stan and he totally regrets everything that has occurred. He is beside himself with remorse and has made it clear to me



Ulrika Jonsson and Stan Collymore... 'heated incident'

that he has apologised to Ulrika and now wishes to make that apology public."

In April, Collymore was cleared of assaulting his former girlfriend in a dispute over Christmas access to their two-year-old son. Ms Jonsson arrived at the bar at around 11pm on Monday with Rangers star Ally McCoist and comedian Fred McAnulty, according to a Scottish Television news report last night.



The pub was packed with Scottish fans and Ms Jonsson took refuge behind the bar where she began to pull pints for fans, said STV reporter Martin Geissler, who was in the bar. About an hour later Collymore arrived, and after fans threw a pint over him he asked Ms Jonsson to leave, the reporter said. It was when she refused that the alleged attack took place. "He attempted to grab her. She broke free. He

dragged her out of the bar and into an anteroom where I was standing with three other people," said Mr Geissler. "She hit her head on the door on the way in. He pushed her in, right through the middle of us. He then struck out at her. She fell. A couple of people tried to get in between the two of them. He was lashing out with his feet, aiming kicks at her face, at her head."

"She was screaming, she was obviously in a great deal of distress and seemed to be in some amount of pain. He dragged her out of the bar into a back room, pushed her to the ground and aimed kicks at her head," the reporter said.

"She was lying on the ground screaming and her staff then grabbed Collymore and threw him out. He was in a real rage but came back later on to make the peace but then left alone a short while later. Ulrika left 15 minutes later in a chauffeur-driven car."

Ms Jonsson, best known for her role as presenter of this year's Eurovision Song Contest.

Doctors called to account

Sarah Boseley
Health Correspondent

A RADICAL drive to open up hospitals to the scrutiny of patients was announced by the Government yesterday in a bid to prevent appalling tragedies such as the unnecessary deaths of the Bristol heart babies from ever happening again.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said hospitals must be accountable to patients, who have a right to know their chances and their children's chances of death or damage at a surgeon's hands.

In a comprehensive response to the Bristol tragedies, he announced a series of measures, some of which will take effect as early as this autumn. They are designed to remove the mystique surrounding doctors which suggests that they always know best - and replace it with solid information and statistics about successes and failures. Only then will the patient be able to make realistic judgments about where and how to accept treatment.

"Providing this information, so patients know the risks, is a prerequisite for patients to exercise their common law right to give informed consent," he said. "The appalling tragedy at Bristol cannot be allowed to

happen again. Standards matter to doctors. They matter to the Government. Most importantly, they matter to patients. We are determined to raise standards throughout the NHS to those of the best."

Doctors and their professional bodies - the British Medical Association, the General Medical Council and the medical Royal Colleges - have accepted that the move towards greater public accountability is for the best and inevitable.

They have been opposed to league tables of surgeons, fearing they will discourage treatment of high risk patients.

The Health Secretary made it clear that he wants to move fast. In October he will publish preliminary clinical indicators in named hospitals - the success and failure rates after certain types of treatment, including deaths and complication rates after an operation, deaths after heart attacks and deaths after a fractured neck or femur.

The Bristol case, and the cancer screening failures at Exeter and Kent and Canterbury, damaged public confidence. Restoring confidence needed internal hospital scrutiny to be supplemented by open and external review.

Doctors also needed the data to judge performance. Other measures he announced were:

□ A national performance framework focusing on the

quality, not just the expense, of NHS services.

□ "Sophisticated measures of clinical quality on a specialty-by-specialty and hospital-by-hospital basis". These will vary. In heart operations they will be death rates, but in hip replacements they will measure the length of time before the artificial joint needs replacing.

□ By the end of this year, criteria specified for judging the success of each hospital's performance in heart operations. Then monitoring, with details being published.

□ Doctors required to take part in the routine inquiries into deaths after surgery, maternal deaths, stillbirths and infant deaths, and suicides.

Last year in one region a third did not take part in the inquiries into deaths after operations.

□ From next year, all hospital doctors will be required to put their results into an audit of their specialty organised by their Royal College.

□ All doctors will have to share their results, in confidence, with the medical director of their trust and visiting teams of doctors.

Mr Dobson said he planned to meet leaders of the medical profession to discuss the next steps. "These are important changes that will help patients by raising standards right across the NHS. They will help restore public confidence in the quality of health care."

Minister 'misled Lords'

Angry MPs insist on answers from top diplomat

Ian Black and Richard Norton-Taylor

THE Foreign Office was plunged into further disarray last night over its handling of the arms-to-Africa affair after its top diplomat disclosed that minister, Baroness Symonds, knew Customs was investigating weapons sent to Sierra Leone but failed to tell Parliament.

Accusations that Lady Symonds had misled Parliament were made after an ill-tempered hearing of the Commons foreign affairs committee.

Sir John Kerr, permanent secretary at the Foreign Office, repeatedly insisted that he could not answer MPs' questions before an inquiry into the affair by Sir Thomas Legg was complete. He backed down, still angry and protesting, after being warned he would be in con-



tempt of Parliament if he failed to respond.

Sir John disclosed that Lady Symonds was briefed on March 10 about the Customs investigation into Sandline International, the private security company suspected of breaching a United Nations arms embargo, by sending arms to support Sierra Leone's ousted leadership earlier this year.

Tony Lloyd, minister responsible for Africa, also made no mention of the investiga-

tion during a Commons debate two days later.

On March 10, Lady Symonds was answering questions in the House of Lords from Lord Avebury, the Liberal Democrat peer who first alerted the Foreign Office to reports of a breach of the UN embargo. Lady Symonds failed to mention the briefing.

Moving quickly to exploit yesterday's revelations, Michael Howard, the Conservatives' foreign affairs spokesman, said Lady Symonds failed to correct the omission during a debate in the Lords two months later.

"She has got to explain why she did not tell the Lords about the Customs investigation on March 10 and why she gave the impression on May 11 that she had not had any briefing - on the face of it she has quite clearly misled the House of Lords."

Mr Howard also accused Mr Cook, the Foreign Secretary, of misleading the Commons on May 6 by failing to correct earlier statements by his ministers.

Lady Symonds said last night: "I have already said to the House of Lords that, if my remarks to the House are turn to page 2, column 8

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Sketch

The honourable schoolboy



Simon Hoggart

THE Commons yesterday agreed in principle to set up a Youth Parliament. Oh dear. The very name is redolent of earnest, spotty young men with pronounced views about the exchange rate. You just know for a fact that, if there had been a Youth Parliament 20 years ago, William Hague would have been a leading member.

Even MPs must have found the prospect dreary, since the moment Andrew Rowe (Con, Faversham) rose to introduce his bill, the chamber suddenly erupted.

There was just one backbench Tory to listen, and he was Desmond Swayne, who, if he had ever belonged to a Youth Parliament, would have been expelled for missing rugby practice and smoking behind the pav. Or at least that's the way he looks.

Mr Rowe, in the manner of a lonely schoolboy who has spent too long in his bedroom, had worked out his plan in great detail. Members of the parliament would come from existing Youth Forums and Registered Youth Councils. (Aaargh! Do you know any young person who would belong to a Youth Forum when they could be hanging out with their friends, making snooty remarks about the opposite sex, and committing under-age drinking?)

The parliament would meet only once a year, preferably in the House of Commons itself. I thought this would be a good way of getting a few bums on seats, since MPs these days seem curiously unwilling to turn up at the old place, but it turned out that he meant during the recess.

Real ministers would have to answer questions on the departmental responsibilities put to them by Young People. These would be on topics of importance to them, such as truancy, playground bullies and drugs... we should talk to the victims and to the perpetrators.

I'm sure Mr Rowe has a point when he says that MPs ought to listen to the views of young people before they pass laws which might affect them. But why, for heavens sake, does he imagine that an imitation Westminster parliament is the best way to do it?

"Will the honourable member confirm that on Tuesday last he threatened to thump my honourable friend if my honourable friend did not hand over his Snickers bar?"

"Huh, that's a bit rich! After 18 weeks of misuse, we require no lectures on appropriate playground etiquette by those sitting opposite. The honourable member will not mind me reminding him of the shameful behaviour near the bike sheds which led to two honourable members on this side going home with badly grazed knees."

And what role models does our present parliament offer? Michael Howard, possibly, who yesterday was told off by the Speaker in a voice as cross as any headmistress, for raising a spurious point of order?

Or would they wish to copy Blair Babes such as Caroline Flint and Helen Brinton, with their endless gassy questions? (Labour MPs are now told not to stand up at all during Prime Minister's Questions unless they have a "supportive" i.e. obsequious—supplementary question to ask.)

Or perhaps they should imitate Nicholas Winterton (C, Macclesfield) who yesterday raised the predicament of the lord mayor of London, who stands to be confused with the new mayor of London.

(This is a problem for Americans, too. When they ask me why London needs a mayor when it already has one, I point out that the lord mayor is mayor only of the City of London, and the new mayor will be mayor of the city of London. At this point they generally change the subject.)

Either way, only an MP would think that the best way of finding out what young people have to say is to recruit hundreds of imitation teenage MPs.

So naturally nobody spoke against Mr Rowe's bill and the House gave it an unopposed first reading.

Review

Organic account shows real fibre

Andrew Clements

Kristian Zimerman
Royal Festival Hall

KRYSTIAN Zimerman's London appearances are rare and precious. He belongs to an exclusive echelon of pianists who can be counted on the fingers of one hand: profound, searching musicians able to match their technical gifts to a command of keyboard colour and an aural imagination that allow them to realise their conceptions in the finest detail.

Everything about a Zimerman performance has aristocratic elegance and commitment. His approach is fastidious without being aloof, delicate without lacking sinew.

Beethoven and Chopin formed the two halves of his Festival Hall recital — the Pathétique and Waldstein sonatas followed after the interval by the A flat Ballade and the B minor Sonata. It was in general absorbing and richly rewarding, and in its bare bones, the most sustained stretches produced playing of a revelatory brilliance that would be hard to rival.

The single disappointment came first. Zimerman's account of the Pathétique was unexpectedly untidy and lacking in real poise. The Adagio was sung out in gorgeous, velvety phrases, but the outer movements left too many loose ends — tiny misfingerings, phrases that ran out of breath, moments of high drama that didn't quite clinch the argument. It was not so much the *Sturm und Drang* of the sonata which captured the attention — that was never quite under control — but the moments of lyrical release

punctuating it, silvery phrases precisely placed and delicately coloured.

Yet the Waldstein was settled and very much all of a piece. Suddenly everything in Zimerman's technical and musical armoury fell into place. The way in which colours were constantly changing in the accompanying chords that power the first movement, the main theme of the finale delicately floated over mysterious, shifting textures and contrasted with the almost pennyplain statements of its introduction, all belonged indissolubly together, and was capped by the belter-skelter of the coda, no hint of breathlessness now — glittering like highly polished crystal.

That precious gift for inner voicing, with every strand in the texture kept distinct even in the fiercest climax, paid off in the most dramatic of ways. In both the A flat Ballade, each section lapped to the next in a totally organic way, and the third sonata.

There Zimerman resisted all temptation to blur the classical and modern divides in Chopin, in both the A flat Ballade, each section lapped to the next in a totally organic way, and the third sonata.

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PM's tour of Europe yields consensus on federated organisation trying to meet citizens' demands

Blair claims new EU vision

Martin Walker in Brussels

TONY Blair last night wrapped up his whirlwind tour of 12 European capitals convinced that Britain — and economic realities — had converted all the member states to a future that had to be less regulated, less federalist, more decentralised and more competitive.

"There is a very clear concept of the direction of economic reform we have to take, and a concern in all the rest of Europe [about] how to get the right relationship between the EU and its citizens," the Prime Minister said in his first public assessment of his six months as President of the EU Council.

"I do believe there's a gathering consensus behind the idea of a reformed vision of Europe for the future, because that's the only way to make it work and make it acceptable to the people."

"All the EU member states recognise that in the modern global economy, it is sensible to have a single market where we need greater flexibility and adaptability in the way Europe works."

Earlier, in Bonn, he said: "What struck me was the extent to which there is European consensus on the need for economic reform, improving education, skills and employability, rather than the heavy-handed regulation and state intervention of the past."

Mr Blair, stressed in Brussels — after a flurry of top-level meetings ahead of next week's EU summit in Cardiff — that he was proud of the way the UK presidency had worked, and how "Europe has been able to speak with a single voice on Kosovo."

But Britain had to learn to adapt to Europe, and to the new club of opinion as rational and even healthy, rather than as nationalist battles to be won or lost.

"We need to get into a different frame of mind in Britain on Europe," Mr Blair stressed.

"We have a tendency to think that every row is a crisis. This is nonsense. We have got to get to a maturity and a self-confidence in our relationship with Europe which allows us to play a leading role without mismanaging the procedures of Europe."

He signalled one row that he expects to emerge at the Cardiff summit: Germany's demand for a Thatcher-style rebate on its current 60 per cent share of the net payments to the EU budget. "It is

being pushed very strongly by Germany and others, but there is an equal and opposite force as well," said Mr Blair. "I understand why the argument is being made, but that payment arrangement cannot change until a lot of other things in the system change with it."

And he would fight hard to defend Britain's budget deal:

Blair speaks: A whirlwind tour of Europe



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D H Lawrence shrine in disrepair



D H Lawrence's mausoleum in New Mexico (above left) has been neglected, prompting calls for his ashes to be brought home closer to the street in Eastwood (left) where he was born

US neglects 'cissy' from Notts

John Ezard on Nottingham's bid to bring back the remains of one of its most famous sons

NEIGHBOURS in his birthplace called him a "mard-ar-se" — a cissy. He broke a local girl's heart, then ran off with a professor's wife. Yet now Nottingham wants D H Lawrence's ashes back.

The city whose dust the author so joyously shook off 87 years ago demanded yesterday that his remains should be returned to "where they belong".

Councillors tabled their demand, "filled with horror" after hearing that Lawrence's mausoleum in Taos, New Mexico, has crumbled into almost terminal neglect.

Lawrence fled to Taos in the 1920s, hailing it as his promised land.

After his death in 1930, his widow, Frieda, took his ashes to Taos. She had them cast

into a concrete slab and laid in a chapel-like building next to the ranch where they had lived. The site became a shrine for his admirers, cared for by the University of New Mexico.

Now however, according to the Dallas Morning News, the university has broken its promise and let the shrine and cabin fall into disrepair.

"Paint is peeling from the walls and even from the memorial block itself. Cobwebs hang from the ceiling. The swinging gates leading to the block are dangling from their hinges. Cigarette butts and chewing gum wrappers litter the floor."

One recent message in the visitors' book says to Lawrence's shade: "Sorry to see you laid here in such a state."

In Nottingham, civic leaders seized on these reports as a chance to bring a prime asset home to the new D H Lawrence Pavilion at Nottingham University.

Milan Radulovic, leader of Broxtowe council, said: "The ashes should be brought back to their rightful place. This is where he was born and spent his formative years and his major work was from this area. If the Americans cannot afford the upkeep and if they have any decency they should give them back."

Nottingham city council's leader, Graham Chapman, said, "If they cannot look after the shrine over there then it would be sensible to bring it back here."

Peter Preston, associate director of the D H Lawrence Centre at Nottingham University, said: "One would have hoped they would take more care of it. I am writing to say how dismayed I am and to point out what we in Notts take of things connected with Lawrence." But he added that it would be "offensive" to move the ashes.

Frieda Lawrence be-

Why 'Lorenzo' left his heart in sun-baked New Mexico

LAURENCE went to Taos in a vain effort to cure the tuberculosis which killed him. When he first saw the region, he was ecstatic, writes John Ezard.

"The moment I saw the brilliant, proud morning shine high up over the desert of Santa Fe, something stood still in my soul and began to attend."

He drew on it for his novel *The Plumed Serpent*. But now he would be less soul-stirred. Among its main attractions are a ski lodge and a "very unique" hotel which displays his erotic art "judged in 1923 by Scotland Yard to be too pornographic for public."

Even in his day it attracted a motley crew, drawn by his reputation

and his drive to sustain an alternative spiritual community. There was the remarkable millionaire socialite Mabel Dodge Luhan, married to a Pueblo Indian, who lent him the ranch. The painter Dorothy Brett tried to seduce Lawrence. She had a collapsible ear trumpet. Aldous Huxley and the psychologist Carl Jung were among visitors.

Above all there was Lawrence's wife Frieda. When he saw her smoking, he would charge at her shouting, "You bitch". She would gaze him with a frowning pan.

Their friends teemed with stories of the journey back to Taos which Frieda made with Lawrence's ashes. They were left at a friend's house, then at a railway station. But Frieda had his ashes built, remarried and settled there for life. Taos, with its tawny mountains, was the place which her "Lorenzo" had said gave him "the greatest experience from the outside world I ever had".

S Africa 'killed with anthrax'

David Borenford in Cape Town

A STONISHING allegations about the use by South African security forces of poisons and micro-organisms — including cholera, anthrax on envelopes and in cigarettes and chocolates, and drinks laced with poison — were made by a top scientist yesterday in evidence to Archbishop Desmond Tutu's truth commission.

Dr Schalk van Rensburg said an attempt might have been made to poison Nelson Mandela and the black consciousness leader, Steve Biko. He confirmed that security services had tried to murder the former secretary general of the South African Council of Churches, Dr Frank Chikane, and said they had used anthrax spores to kill a Russian adviser to the ANC.

The truth commission, investigating human rights abuses in the apartheid era, was also told about a research project aimed at "immunising" women against pregnancy, seemingly with the intention of cutting the black birth rate.

And it heard how a front company for the military churned out 912 kilograms of the "love drug", ecstasy, with a street value of up to a billion rand (\$125 million).

Dr van Rensburg said the most recent instruction came from Dr van Rensburg, a leading veterinarian, who was centrally involved in covert research for the military at the Rooodeplaat Research Laboratory near Pretoria.

Dr van Rensburg said he was recruited in 1984 after being told that South Africa faced a serious threat in the form of a new generation of biological weapons — based on lethal fungi — being developed by the Russians, which South Africa believed were being tried out in the Angolan war.

The Rooodeplaat laboratory had a staff of about 70, led by 12 scientists. He was director of laboratory services.

He said that at the time of Mr Mandela's release, a senior official in the chemical warfare project, Dr Andre Immanuel, had been "very confident" that the ANC leader's brain function "would be impaired, progressively, for some time".

Dr van Rensburg said he believed the comment was related to plans to lace Mr Mandela's medication at Pollsmoor Prison with the heavy metal poison, thallium.

The head of the chemical warfare project, Dr Wouter Basson — a cardiologist and personal physician to the former state president, P. W. Botha — had said at one stage that they had administered

thallium to Biko. Dr van Rensburg said, Thallium poisoning could account for Biko's irrationally aggressive behaviour during the police interrogation when he had been fatally injured.

He said he was told that the military were furious over their failure to kill Dr Chikane. "They made a lot of mistakes," he said, including the way they applied the toxin to his clothes. They had expected him to travel to Namibia but he had gone to America, where doctors had saved him.

South African agents had also planted anthrax spores in the food of three Russian advisers to the ANC while they were in Lusaka. One of them died.

The doctor confirmed details of a list, produced by truth commission investigators, detailing toxins produced at Rooodeplaat. The list which he said was a "list of murder weapons" — showed the laboratory had issued, among other items, 32 bottles of cholera germs, cyanide, thallium, anthrax, botulism and salmonella.

The toxins were used in laced beer-tins and bottles, whisky bottles and most popularly — in chocolate. The quantity of cholera germs was sufficient to cause "massive outbreaks", he said. Most of the items were issued "directly to operatives".

Dr van Rensburg said "the most frequent instruction" from Dr Basson was to develop a compound which would kill, but make death appear natural. "That was the chief aim of the Rooodeplaat Research Laboratory."

His major project at Rooodeplaat involved attempts to develop a vaccine to counter human fertility. He said Dr Basson motivated the project by saying that the South African-backed Angolan rebel leader, Jonas Savimbi, had a problem in that his most efficient soldiers were "women, but they kept falling pregnant. This explanation was transparently 'silly'."

The development of a vaccine was recognised by the scientific community as a means of controlling births but he had warned Dr Basson that such a vaccine could not be racially-based or administered covertly and that it could easily be reversed. Dr Basson had insisted they proceed with it.

Earlier a former professor of organic chemistry, Johan Koekemoer, told the commission that as part of the chemical warfare programme they had produced huge quantities of the drugs ecstasy and mardax for the military. He said the production of the drugs had been justified on the grounds that they could be used to incapacitate enemy troops.

Top Russian official accused of aiding corporate tax fraudsters



Yuri Yurkov: 'data bent'

Tom Whitthouse in Moscow

A SCAM in the heart of Moscow's bureaucracy costing the Russian treasury billions of roubles in lost taxes was exposed yesterday after a two-month investigation by the Federal Security Service, the successor to the KGB.

Yuri Yurkov, head of the state statistics committee, was arrested and charged with "systematic distortion of statistical data on big companies which allowed them to

avoid taxes". More than \$1 million (\$613,500) — Mr Yurkov's alleged payback for up to four years of understating selected companies' tax liabilities — was discovered by police in the accused's flat.

Mr Yurkov and several of his colleagues, who have also been arrested, are accused of giving false statistics on company profits and turnover to the Russian equivalent of the Inland Revenue in return for bribes. The billions in rouble losses to the national coffers equate to millions of pounds.

The official is also accused of having sold classified information about companies to their competitors.

Mr Yurkov was allegedly using his position as chief statistician to Russia's tax authorities to offer his "clients" lower tax rates and commercial secrets in return for cash and gifts. Large quantities of diamonds were also found at his home.

The leading investigative role played by the former KGB in this case suggests that President Yeltsin's new government is getting serious

about tax evasion and is hoping the security services can do something about it.

After a series of labour strikes, political setbacks and the near collapse of the rouble on financial markets last week, Mr Yeltsin has given the KGB's successor increased powers in an attempt to re-establish his economic and political authority.

Sources in Russian intelligence yesterday told the Interfax news agency that the security services have also been brought into investigations of the illegal smuggling

of billions of dollars out of Russia to foreign tax havens, mainly in Cyprus and Switzerland, each year.

The country's massive tax evasion deprives the government of the revenue it needs to pay millions of workers. The discovery of official corruption in this process will come as a surprise to no one in Russia, including the increasingly desperate and cynical miners, teachers and doctors who have not received their wages in months, and in some cases, years.

Mr Yurkov's arrest is more

significant for revealing that Mr Yeltsin's love affair with Russia's leading businessmen — the barons who financed his re-election two years ago and turned his media outlets over to his campaign team — is going through a rocky patch.

The president may have been happy to turn a blind eye to the oligarchs' tax evasion and manipulation of government figures while they posed no threat to his political ambitions. But the increasingly independent stance they have taken

towards the next presidential election in the year 2000 — and the promotion by some of a former prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, as presidential successor — waiting has piqued Mr Yeltsin.

Even if he does not stand for a third presidential term, Mr Yeltsin needs to secure the succession of his own favoured candidate. There are too many skeletons in his wardrobe — his 1993 bombing of the Russian parliament, Russia's disastrous intervention in Chechnya — for him to risk a normal retirement.

SALES

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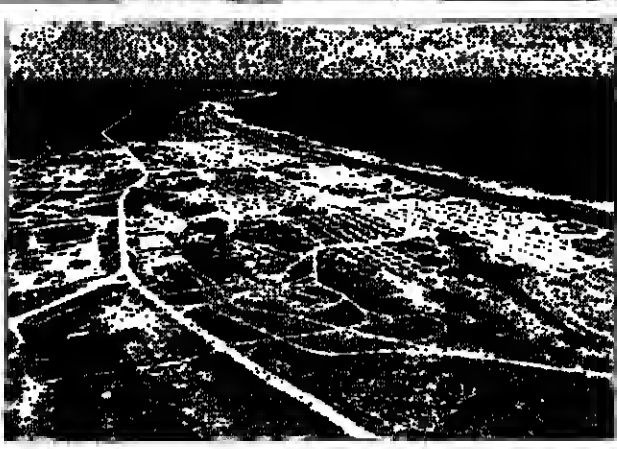
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BT

Doctor blamed over child's death

Katie Dougal, died while being treated for two broken teeth



The base on Christmas Island in the Pacific during the 1950s

Nuclear 'victims' lose in Europe



Kenneth McGinley: claimed his health was destroyed by the nuclear blasts in the Pacific

was caused by her father's presence at the tests. The Government argued that documents were held at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston, Berkshire, detailing the environmental radiation levels around Christmas Island during the tests. These were not classified and the veterans could have applied for them to be produced to the Pensions Appeals Tribunal.

Woodward fund trustees reject allegation of fraud in US

have told a patrolman who arrested her for drink driving that she believed Ms Woodward was guilty.

Ms Woodward, who is in Elton, has claimed Ms Whitfield Sharp was seeking revenge after being sacked for not being up to the job of defending her daughter. She said she will pursue no further criminal action and the court gives its ruling.

Ms Woodward remains in the US, where she is awaiting the result of her appeal against her conviction and sentence. She has also appealed against the reduction of the conviction from murder to manslaughter. The verdict of the seven judges of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court is imminent.

Science prize goes to America

THE \$10,000 Rhine-Poulenc Science Book Prize was awarded to Jared Diamond last night for his most recently titled book *Guns, Germs and Steel*, a Short History of Humans and Violence for the Last 13,000 Years.

It is the second time Professor Diamond has won the prize, hailed as the science community's answer to the Nobel Prize. His book explores the inequalities in human development. Chairman of the judges, Ian McEwan praised Guns, Germs and Steel as "a brilliant multi-faceted account of human and civilizational

PC cleared of assault

Kempston, near Bedford, in May 1997.

But PC Taylor said that PC Taylor and PC Mark Harrison were the only officers who were not in town when they saw Mr Whitaker on double yellow lines.

Mr Whitaker admitted he "went away a little man" when he was asked to move on and "I was a bit embarrassed."

He added he needed hospital treatment and that his sight did not return fully for several days.

But PC Taylor said the pensioner was more than belligerent when he marched his wife, Miss, told him to "pliss off" and tried to bite him.

PC Taylor, aged 31, from Bedford, said he acquired Mr Whitaker twice from a yard in the town where he was "planning" to "pliss off" and "pliss off" him down. "He was staring directly at me. He had a wild look in his eyes and he was

Law changes urged to end bias in theatres casting only white actors

Other CRE requests include protection against racial discrimination being provided in areas such as policing and the prison system by making it unlawful for public bodies to discriminate.

Cities chosen for trials of pay-to-drive tolls

drivers using electronic smart cards fitted to their windcreens, have been charged for using a 2½ mile route into the city. Charges have varied between £2 and £10 depending on time and pollution levels. The commuters were given funds to meet the tolls for the eight month trial.

Under government plans, any taxes raised by the local authorities will be used to fight road congestion and improve public transport.

[illegible]

The beat's not going on... Dan Glaister reports

□ In April, This Is Hardcore by Pulp entered the album charts at number 1 with sales of 50,000. Two weeks later it had dropped to number 12, with sales of just 10,000 for the week. The band's previous album, Different Class, released in October 1995, sold 133,000 copies.

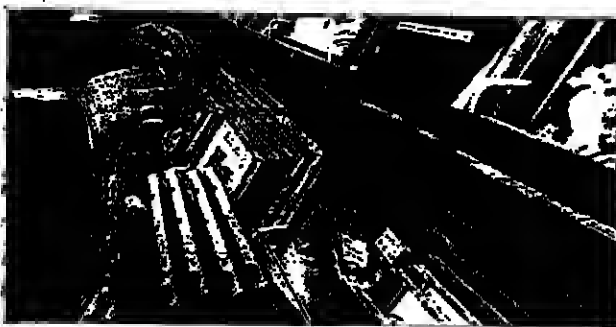
□ Catatonia's International Velvet replaced Pulp at number 1 in April, with sales of 32,000 in its first week. The following week it was in turn replaced by Garbage's Version 2.0, which had first week sales of just 31,500.

□ Other recent charting albums include one by Public

Enemy, which reached number 50 with sales of just 2,543; one by Saint Etienne, which reached number 18 with sales of 7,838; and From The Choirgirl Hotel by Tori Amos, which reached number 6 with sales of just 18,150.

□ The Universe 98 dance festival at Knebworth was cancelled after only an estimated 9,000 tickets out of a total 40,000 were sold.

□ According to Music Week, 6,663 albums have been released so far this year, and 3,658 singles. While radio airplay is crucial to a single's success, Radio 1 adds a maximum of 10 singles a week to its playlist.



Pop goes the music scene's future

THREE years ago it seemed that British pop music was back to its best. Oasis and Blur were fighting it out for the number one spot, Pulp and Suede were in the wings, and the Britpop sound was set to conquer America. But today it is a different picture. Record sales are in decline, acts are being dropped from record labels, and concerts and festivals are being cancelled.

Now Alan McGee, head of Creation Records and a member of the Government's Creative Industries Task Force, suggests that the death knell has sounded for record companies and music retailing, and that bands will soon download directly on to the Internet.

Mr McGee, whose company roster includes Oasis, said: "Nobody's selling any records. If anybody's telling you different, they are lying. There is a worldwide recession in the music industry. They might be all smiley-smiley at the Brits, but it's an industry in absolute crisis."

Writing in this week's New Musical Express, under the headline The Great Rock 'N' Roll Dwindle, Mr McGee points to low sales figures for recent albums which have reached the charts.

For him, the explanation is simple. "It's no wonder people aren't buying records. When I ask people what they think of the music scene, they say it's a dilution of a dilution of a dilution."

He says that the excitement that was traditionally

provided by rock music is now generated by computer technology. "There's no rebellion in music any more. But if you are 15 years old and you buy a laptop, your mum doesn't even know how to turn it on, man. That's a rock 'n' roll... That's where the generation gap is now."

Mr McGee predicts: "There will be no record companies in five or 10 years' time. It will be easier for bands to download their music on the Internet — cut out the middle man, the record company, and deliver straight to the fans for a cheaper price."

The future may be closer than Mr McGee, who first ventured on to the Internet just a couple of months ago, realises. For 27, customers at the Lev's store in London's Regent Street can cut

their own compilation CDs, choosing from thousands of titles at a virtual record store kiosk.

Twin/Tone Records, a Minneapolis-based record label behind artists such as the Jayhawks and Soul Asylum, has decided to give up releasing CDs. Instead, the company will sell downloadable sound files over the Internet. Songs, artwork and sleeve notes will be available, with prices ranging from 90p for a single song to £6 for an album.

Mr McGee's arguments are borne out by the rest of a special report in the magazine. Following the cancellation of two shows scheduled for Finsbury Park, north London — one because of poor ticket sales — and the demise of the Universe 98 dance weekend for the same reason, promoter

Vince Power, head of the Mean Fiddler Organisation, said: "Ego keeps the music business going. And promoters, including myself, are very good at making excuses. Perhaps the truth is that the acts that are around just aren't big enough."

Wembley Stadium is staging just two shows this year. In previous years it has staged more than eight.

The NME's editor, Steve Sutherland, said: "We always get a bit anxious

around April when labels start to drop bands, but this year it just seemed to continue. And then we saw some sales figures which are frankly quite frightening."

But Mr Sutherland retains some optimism. "We're going to see a really healthy industry underground."

"Over the next few years, this underground music will coalesce into something that the general public can relate to again."

The Government is also intent on bringing in new measures to make the courtroom scene less intimidating for witnesses and victims, including asking all the lawyers and judges to remove their wigs and gowns to create a more informal atmosphere.

It also recommends that witness boxes may be moved out of sight of the public gallery so that those giving evidence are not affected by seeing a large group of defence supporters.

Much more routine use is also to be made of the powers of the judge to clear the public gallery, for example during

Witnesses to get greater protection

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

NEW restrictions on the reporting of trials, the introduction of one-way screens in courtrooms and panic alarms, are among measures to be announced today by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, to tackle growing concern about witness intimidation.

A Home Office report to be published today puts forward 78 separate recommendations to give greater protection to victims in rape and serious sexual offence trials, to witnesses who are vulnerable — such as those with learning difficulties — and to deal with intimidation.

As many as 63,800 witnesses who give evidence to the police or in court suffer intimidation each year. In 1996 there were 370 convictions for witness intimidation and harming or threatening to harm a witness, and a further 2,000 offenders were found guilty or cautioned for perverting the course of justice.

The package to be endorsed by Mr Straw will confirm that it is to be made illegal for a defendant in a rape trial personally to cross-examine his victim. But today's report also reveals that this ban will be extended to all violent crime and to cruelty and neglect trials involving child witnesses.

The ban may also cover cases such as those involving stalkers where intimidation is a factor and the witness is likely to be distressed by being questioned by the defendant.

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Much more routine use is also to be made of the powers of the judge to clear the public gallery, for example during

rape trials, when evidence of an intimate nature is being given in court. The press is to be allowed to remain in such circumstances but banned from reporting the evidence.

More live closed circuit television links are to be installed so that child witnesses, those with a relationship with the defendant, and victims of rape do not have to be present in the courtroom itself and face the defendant.

But the inter-departmental working party on witness intimidation has rejected demands that in future witnesses should be allowed to give their evidence anonymously in trials. Although used in blackmail and terrorist cases, the Home Office believes that in this case the right of the defendant to know who is giving evidence against him outweighs any benefits.

However, it does recommend that one-way screens are introduced into court-

As many as 63,800 witnesses may suffer intimidation each year

rooms so that the witness cannot see the defendant but the defendant is allowed to see his accuser.

The report also advocates the introduction of much more wide-ranging restrictions on the press reporting of criminal cases where the publication of a witness's identity can result in harassment and intimidation.

The working group recommends that the ban on identifying rape victims in court should be extended to cases where reporting was likely to exacerbate witness intimidation. It also suggests that in order to be effective such a ban should apply not only in England and Wales but in Scotland and Northern Ireland as well.

Panic alarms for witnesses are among several practical measures, including pagers, suggested to avert attacks on them. The panic alarms, which could be worn around the neck, would allow the local police to be alerted.

More arrests expected in Barnardo's child abuse inquiry

Martha Wainwright

POLICE are questioning a former house parent arrested after a 10-month inquiry into claims of child abuse at a Barnardo's school in Yorkshire.

The 51-year-old man was taken from Worcester to Harrogate police station in North Yorkshire, where other suspects are expected to be detained shortly.

The investigation was triggered by Barnardo's after the charity was told of allegations relating to Spring Hill boarding school in Ripon between 1967 and 1974. Details were passed to North Yorkshire police, who began interviewing 60 former pupils at the mansion which Barnardo's leased from the Church Commissioners in 1988.

The building was used by Barnardo's until 1991, when a new £2 million school was opened nearby. Spring Hill was an important part of the

charity's national network, taking boys and girls aged five to 15, who were referred there as educationally sub-normal.

Det Insp Philip Metcalfe, leading the inquiry, said allegations of sexual and physical abuse had been made by 10 former pupils. He added: "It is vital we hear from people who lived there between 1967 and 1974 in order to substantiate these allegations."

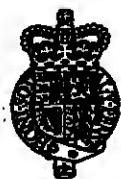
Two county council social workers are also involved in the inquiry, which spans a period when Spring Hill was expanded. Until 1970, pupils were aged five to 12, but the age range was then changed to seven to 15, with a yearly average of 40 children in residence.

Barnardo's said yesterday: "When this matter was brought to our attention last year, we immediately investigated and passed the matter to the police. We are co-operating with them fully and will continue to do so."

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HOME OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID FOR CONTRACT SPECIALIST SUPPORT FOR POLICE COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS TRAINING

The Home Office wishes to enter into a contract with an organisation, with effect from 1st January 1999, to provide specialist support to the police in community and race relations training.

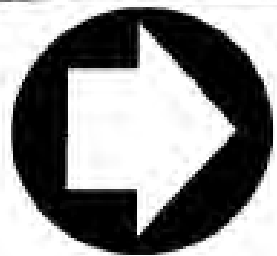
The service provider will act as a consultant to both National Police Training and police forces in England and Wales in order to:

- complete the integration of community and race relations throughout the national police training curriculum and
- take forward a programme of support/training in community and race relations for individual forces.

A tender from a single service provider for the whole requirement would be preferable but separate bids for the respective parts of the contract will not be ruled out.

The service provider will be given the opportunity to put forward alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the contract.

Further details, including standards required from applicants will be found in the European Journal (OJEC) on 3rd June 1998.



British officials reckon there are 12,000-14,000 Britons in the south of Tenerife, and that at any one time the criminal element numbers as much as 1,000. The dark side of paradise

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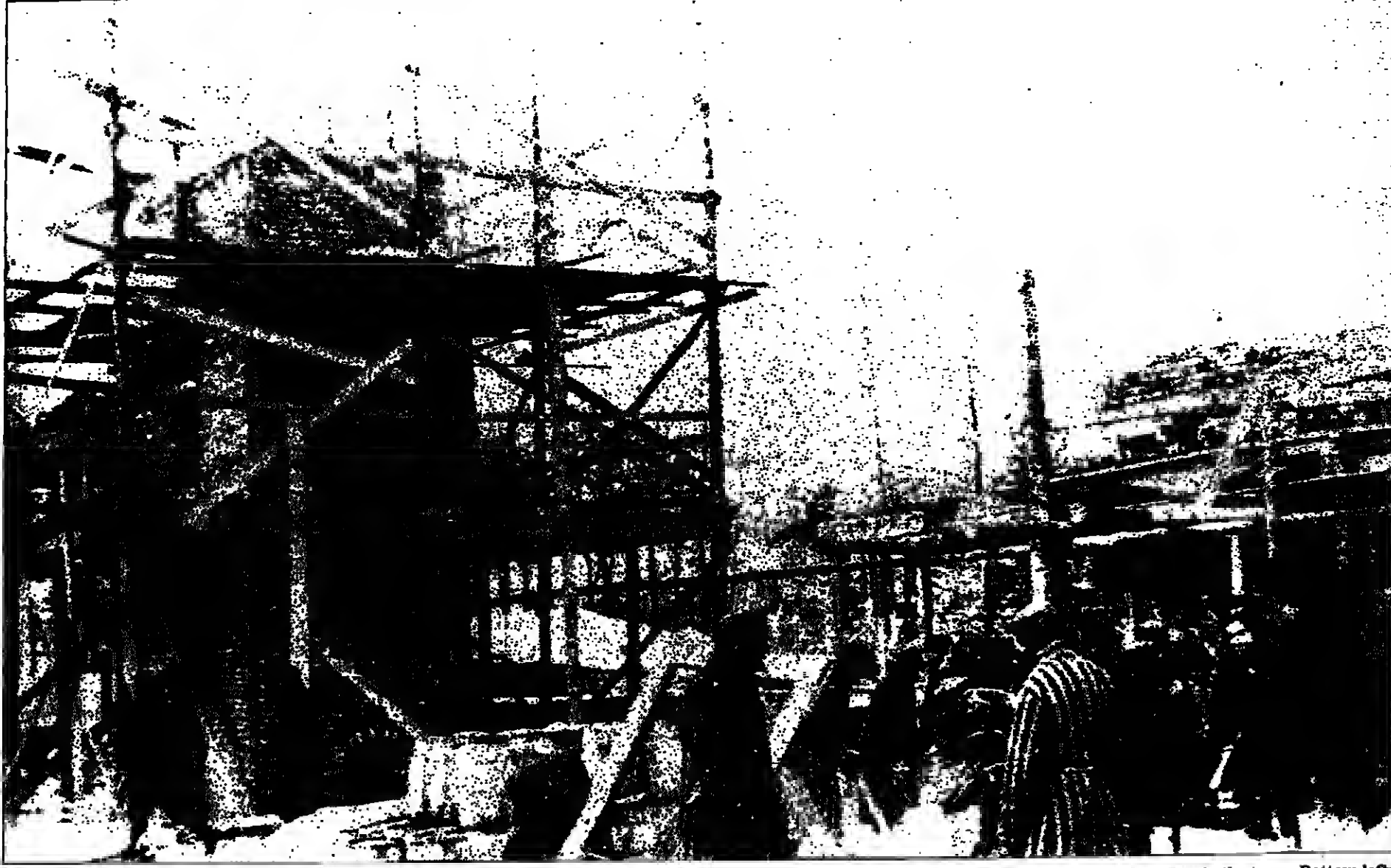
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Main picture: Scaffolding surrounds what was to become the grim landmark of the crematorium chimney. Top left: Women at work on a construction site. The houses in the background show how close the camp was to the town. Bottom left: Women dig while work continues on a half-finished building in the background. The pictures were taken by a Polish lab technician and hidden under a rubbish dump until after the war

Prisoners shown building their own death chambers

Matthew Kalman in Jerusalem
on the remarkable images of life in Auschwitz forgotten for 50 years

UNTIL 1941 Oswiecim was a medium-sized Polish city notable only for its light industry and its status as the regional capital. But in the autumn of that year the occupying German army began to build in the area a vast complex that was to become synonymous with Nazi evil: the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp.

By the end of the war in 1945 more than 1.5 million people had been shot, starved or gassed to death there in a chilling fusion of modern science and medieval hatred. Most of the victims were Jews, more than 500,000 were children. Hundreds of thousands were cremated in huge ovens whose chimneys spewed human ashes day and night which rained down over nearby towns.

Others were buried in mass graves. Thousands died from fatigue, starvation and illness even after the Soviet liberation of the camp. The landmarks of Auschwitz-Birkenau have become imprinted on the conscience of the world: the railway tracks which carried cattle trucks full of Jews to their deaths; the cruelly ironic slogan "Arbeit Macht Frei" (work makes free) over the gate.

Earlier this year an extraordinary set of 50 photographs taken during the building of the camp was found at the Auschwitz museum in Poland and sent to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem. They are published here, some for the first time outside Israel, many for the first time ever.

They show prisoners, many of them women, at forced labour building the crematoria and gas chambers under the supervision of SS guards.

"This is a unique and amazing document," said David Silberklang, editor of Yad Vashem studies. "We do not have any other pictures which show daily life in the extermination camps."

The photographs were taken in the winter of 1941-42 by a German officer called Dr. Kamann, who operated a small photographic laboratory in Auschwitz on behalf of the construction company. A Polish prisoner called Ludwik Lawin, sent to Auschwitz before it became a death camp, worked as Kamann's lab technician.

The photographs were taken on behalf of the construction company as a record of the work, but Lawin realised their potential significance. He made two sets of copies, and gave one set to another prisoner to hide in a pipe. Those photo-

graphs disappeared but Lawin decided to bury his set under the camp rubbish dump.

He went back to Auschwitz after the war and retrieved them, and gave them to the Polish authorities in 1946, together with a letter explaining how they had been taken and hidden.

According to Mr Silberklang, "This is a unique document which shows daily life in the extermination camps".

What makes these photographs special is that for the first time one can clearly see the prisoners who were used as slave labour and who were forced to build tools of murder with their own hands.

"I have no doubt that they didn't know what they were building, but we, who

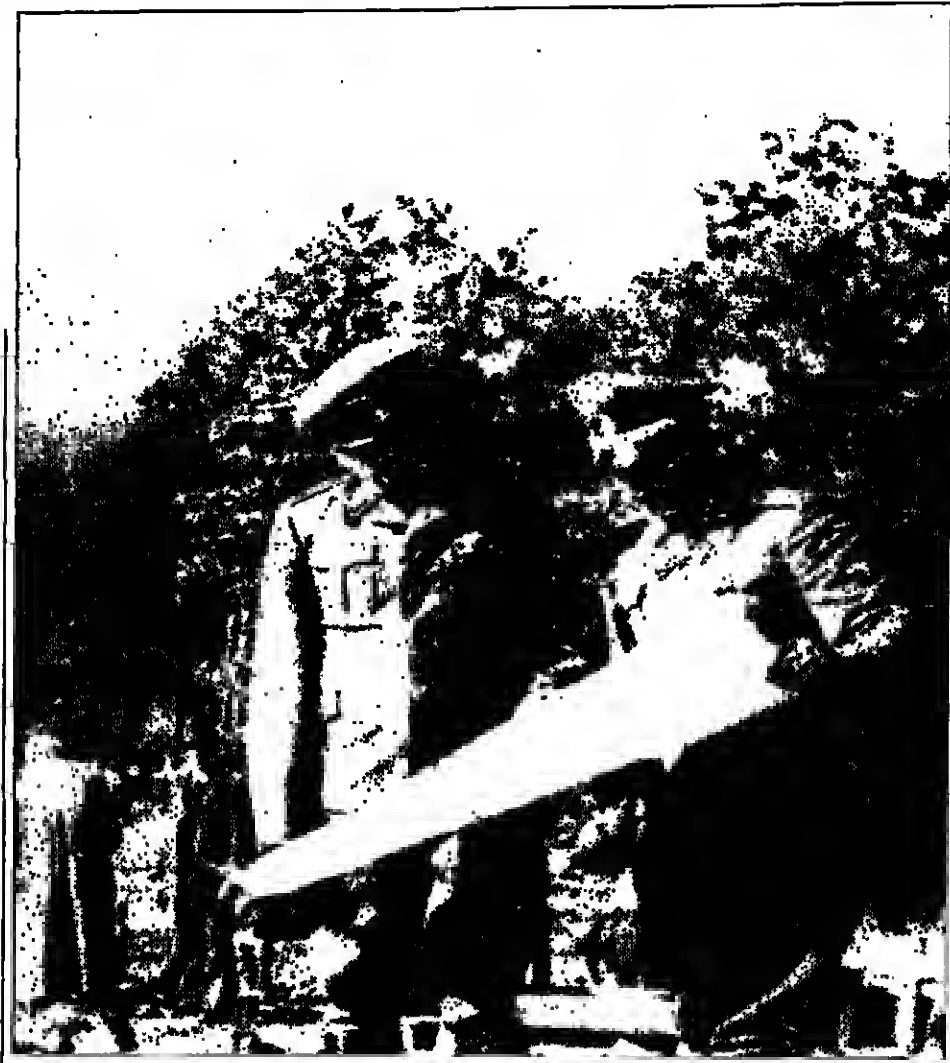
know exactly what happened there, see them and are shocked," he said. "The pictures are the first evidence of their kind of Jews in the process of building the camp and they show the work of the prisoners stage by stage."

These are the only known photographs of the daily life of prisoners working inside the camp.

The crematoria were built by Jewish prisoners in late 1941. As many as 1,000 were women brought from a German concentration camp who, together with 1,000 young women from Slovakia, were regarded as "pioneers".

Apart from the poignancy of seeing the prisoners creating the means of their own mass murder, the photographs are unusual in the number of women depicted and the clear faces of the prisoners.

"I'm sure it will be possible, by checking the list of Auschwitz prisoners, to identify who appears in the photos," Mr Silberklang said.



SS officers consult plans for the camp where 1.5 million people would meet their deaths

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Nato wary of crossing Kosovo Rubicon

Ian Black and Richard Norton-Taylor

WARRING Serbs and Albanian separatists were urged yesterday to "curb the spiral of violence in Kosovo", where reports spoke of a "grave and worsening human rights and humanitarian situation".

Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, urged both sides to refrain, as Western governments appeared divided and hesitant about using force to stop the bloodshed.

Nato is engaged in frenetic diplomatic activity on possible military intervention to prevent the crisis in the Serb province escalating, as the Bosnian conflict did in the early 1990s, but there is little sense of imminent action.

Its defence ministers, including Britain's George Robertson, meet in Brussels tomorrow, but an official said yesterday that the focus was "still very much on the preventive deployment on the borders".

"There is a whole Rubicon to be crossed between going from economic and diplomatic measures to starting to introduce major Western military forces into the region," he said. Nato did not want to be "drawn into an over-hasty, ill-thought-out mission".

Diplomats said last night that the defence ministers would instruct their advisers to draw up contingency plans only, and would wait for the approval of a United Nations Security Council resolution being drafted by Britain.

Though Britain has been talking-up the idea of air strikes, Germany's defence

minister, Volker Rühle, underlined the reluctance of some governments to send troops.

"Before it [military intervention] can be used the Western powers must exhaust all possibilities to exert both political and economic pressure — this has not yet happened," the Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper quoted him as saying.

Britain, France and Germany are in broad agreement on a plan to launch air strikes on Serbia if the Yugoslav froth and the clear faces of the prisoners.

Ms Baudat said that when she visited Rome for the funeral she had been struck by the behaviour of the guard to whom her son was said to have entrusted his letter.

"It was as if he was terror-

ised when he met me," she said. "I had the impression he had been told the course to follow."

She claimed that the letter had been opened by the Swiss Guard's chaplain before he passed it on to the investigating magistrate, and was read out to the guards the day after the bodies were found.

The letter also alluded to an investigation which her son had told her he was conducting into the conservative Roman Catholic group Opus Dei. A fellow-guard said Estermann was a member of Opus Dei and grossly abused his position among the guards.

The group's spokesperson in Switzerland has denied that he was a member.

ernment to help resolve the conflict.

On Monday the US and the EU decided to impose an assets freeze and an investment ban on Serbia because of Belgrade's crackdown.

The foreign ministers of Britain, the US, France, Germany, Italy and Russia — the six-state Contact Group on former Yugoslavia — will meet in London on Friday.

The diplomacy of the crisis is complicated by the fact that Kosovo is part of Yugoslavia and no member of the group supports anything beyond autonomy within that country, Tony Blair told reporters.

In Bonn, the German chancellor, Helmut Kohl, said that President Boris Yeltsin had offered to use Russia's influence with the Yugoslav gov-

ernment to help resolve the conflict.

Since February, at least 250 people have died in clashes between Serb forces and Albanian guerrillas. The 1.8 million ethnic Albanians make up 90 per cent of Kosovo's population.

Note casts Vatican murder doubt

John Hooper in Rome

DOUBTS surrounding last month's triple killing in the Vatican have grown after the mother of the young Swiss Guard blamed for the deaths claimed there were anomalies in the note he left behind.

Muguette Baudat said she did not rule out her son's guilt in the crime, but added: "One could well believe he was murdered."

Lance Corporal Cedric Tor-

can officials said the young NCO had turned his pistol on himself after murdering the others.

The most substantial evidence for this theory was a letter addressed to his mother which Torney handed to a comrade about half an hour before the killings. The letter said he had been driven to the desperate act by Estermann's refusal to award him a decoration routinely conferred on the pope's soldiers.

In an interview with the Swiss newspaper Le Matin, Ms Baudat, who is divorced from Torney's father, said the letter passed to her by the Vatican authorities.

Ms Baudat said she had been struck by the behaviour of the guard to whom her son was said to have entrusted his letter.

never used in correspondence.

• Included a precise, but incorrect, reckoning of the time he had served with the Swiss Guard (three years, six months and six days);

• Was better spelt than previous letters from Torney, whose spelling, she said, was shocking.

She added that previous letters had been written on a different sort of paper and that for the first time he had written her private telephone number on the envelope.

Ms Baudat said that when she visited Rome for the funeral she had been struck by the behaviour of the guard to whom her son was said to have entrusted his letter.

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Nigerian military promises civilian rule

Spotlight picks out dark horse

Nigerian military promises civilian rule

Chris McGreal
in Johannesburg

THE Nigerian military government promised a return to civilian rule in October as opposition leaders called last night for national demonstrations on Friday to press the new ruler, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, to reinstate democracy.

Its spokesman, Air Vice-Marshal Isaac Alfa, said the government would stick to the transition programme laid out by General Sani Abacha, the head of state who died of a heart attack on Monday.

But it was not immediately clear whether it is committed to free elections. Abacha had refused to legalise most political parties.

The opposition protests will be held on the fifth anniversary of the annulled presidential election which laid the ground for Abacha's coup.

Gen Abubakar gave few clues to how he intends to govern Africa's most populous state in the brief remarks he made after being sworn in early yesterday.

"All hands must be on deck to move this nation forward. I will address the nation in due course," he said, before declaring a week of national mourning.

Some Nigerians took to the streets to celebrate Abacha's death, and some opposition politicians described it as "a gift from God" and "the best thing that has happened to Nigeria in years".

The leading opposition group, United Action for Democracy, dismissed Gen Abubakar's appointment as a continuation of the old order and called on people to join Friday's demonstrations.

"We are under no illusion that... military rule has come to an end... The struggle against military rule in all its guises and disguises will continue with renewed vigour," it said.

An early test of Gen Abubakar will be what he does about political prisoners, including the winner of the annulled 1993 election, Moshood Abiola, and the jailed former military leader Gen Osegun Obasanjo.

The shape of the new cabinet will also show whether Gen Abubakar feels powerful enough to purge Abacha loyalists.

But to most Nigerians the crucial tests will be whether Gen Abubakar holds genuinely free elections, tries to perpetuate military rule by installing a civilian puppet as president, or backs out of the promised handover to civilian government in October.

Abacha had already decided to scrap free elections in favour of a referendum on whether he should move from military leader to president.

The UAD called on the military to instate Chief Abiola as president. The Nobel literature laureate Wole Soyinka backed the call.

"The military has nothing more to offer the nation in terms of assisting people toward democracy," he said.

"I don't know why they keep going round and round. It simply means they are insincere."

The army's reaction to Friday's protests will also be significant. The military shot dead seven people at opposition demonstrations on May Day and arrested the UAD leader Ollisa Agbakoba, a lawyer.

A harsh response on Friday to what are likely to be big protests would undermine the easing of the international sanctions imposed on Nigeria after the 1993 coup and the hanging of the Ogoni activist Ken Saro-Wiwa.

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, joined other governments in saying that Abacha's death offered an opportunity to set Nigeria back on the path to democracy. But South Africa praised Abacha for supporting democracy elsewhere in West Africa.

Spotlight picks out dark horse

Profile/The new leader is a career soldier who has kept his head down, writes Chris McGreal

ONE of the few things Nigerians can confidently conclude about their new leader is that he is no Sani Abacha.

General Abdulsalam Abubakar is a mild-mannered career soldier who got on by avoiding the machiavellian politics — and coup plots — for which his predecessor was known.

He appears to be the compromise candidate, the ruling military council met into the early hours of yesterday morning before settling on Gen Abubakar at the expense of Lieutenant-General Jeremiah Useni, a more senior officer closely tied to Nigeria's brutal security apparatus.

One of the few servicemen to have risen to the rank of general without holding government office, Gen Abubakar fought in the civil war in the late 1960s. In the 1980s he served with the United Nations in Lebanon, and more recently he has commanded garrisons around Nigeria.

The 65-year-old, a Muslim northerner, kept out of the public eye despite rising to the rank of chief of defence staff after Abacha seized power five years ago. This year he became Abacha's de facto deputy after the arrest of the influential General Oladipo Diya, who was accused of plotting a coup.

As chief of staff he oversaw the army, navy and air force, but he has no consti-

tuency in any of the services. It may prove a fatal weakness.

But he has influential backing outside the military council, from the former military leader General Ibrahim Babangida, who began his rise. In return, Gen Abubakar supported Gen Babangida's programme for transition to civilian rule, which ended in the cancellation of presidential elections five years ago because Gen Babangida did not like the result.

After being manoeuvred from office a few weeks before Abacha seized power in November 1993, Gen Babangida retreated to a form of internal exile. But Gen Abubakar discreetly maintained their relationship.

Last month Gen Babangida broke his silence to call for an end to military rule. One of the many questions Gen Abubakar has left unanswered is whether he shares his ally's new vision.

What is certain is that if Nigeria's latest military leader tries to become the third in a row to conduct a lengthy transition to free elections he will need to resort to heavy-handed tactics to stifle the protests.

Gen Abubakar: Appears to be compromise candidate



Newly mobilised Ethiopian militiamen travel towards the front line near the town of Zalambesa. The area is one of several slices of territory in dispute

PHOTOGRAPH: CORINNE DUFRAY

Bitter battle erupts in dusty border town once not worth fighting for

David Hirst visits Zalambesa, the latest flashpoint in the undeclared war between the former friends Ethiopia and Eritrea

ZALAMBESA is a natural pathway for armies.

It was still a province of Ethiopia, was a main highway between Addis Ababa and Asmara.

Set in spectacular landscape of deep gorges, fantastic rock formations, acacia trees and plant life, it is itself a nondescript place, little more than two strips of dwellings on either side of the road.

Now the border town is the object of some of the bitter fighting that has erupted along the frontier.

On Saturday night Ethiopia announced that its army had retaken Zalambesa, driving out the Eritrean brigade that had occupied it.

But yesterday morning the people of Adigrat, a town 15 miles to the south, were woken by the sound of battle. Journalists on both sides of the border reported intense shelling, mortar and tank fire, and saw casualties being ferried to hospitals.

Ethiopian officials said the Zalambesa area was being pounded by the Eritreans with an "incredible array of heavy weapons". Eritrea accused its neighbour of starting the attacks.

There are several bits of territory along their common frontier over which Eritrea and Ethiopia are at virtual war. The main one, to the north-west, is called Badme; the others descend in a southerly direction all the way to a point opposite the Red Sea port of Assab. The Zalambesa area is one of these.

Since Eritrea achieved independence in 1991, Zalambesa has been controlled by Ethiopia. The Eritrean border post, a wooden barrier across the road, is perched on the rim of the shallow basin in which the town sits.

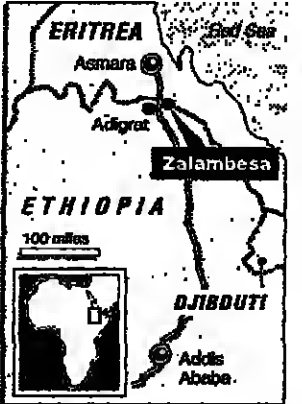
But half its inhabitants are Eritreans — the remainder are Tigrajan — and some of them were saying on Monday that the frontier should actually go through the middle of the town. The line was drawn by the Italians more than a century ago between their Eritrean colony and the Ethiopia of the time, and the Eritreans now insist it is the proper boundary of their young state.

At independence some bits of what they consider Eritrean territory remained under

Ethiopian control. They say they had been ready to overlook this, confident that minor differences would be amicably settled now that the Ethiopian state fell under the dominance of the Tigrajan, their chief allies in the combined insurrection that brought down the tyrannical Marxist-Leninist regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Such barren little extremities of the new-born state hardly seemed worth fighting for. Yet they have precipitated a bloody trial of strength between former allies which is now close to full-scale war.

This is a conflict as strangely conducted as it is



trivial in origin. One of its strangest features is that the Eritrean leadership almost never says anything about it. But anyone can find out what is happening by simply going to have a look.

I took a taxi and, after a three-hour drive, found myself in the middle of this town from which the Ethiopians had supposedly driven out the Eritreans on Saturday. In fact, the Eritrean army was there in strength, busily reinforcing a new front line on the other side of the town.

Civilians were drifting back. On the supposedly Tigrajan side of the town a wizened old lady cheerfully announced that the place was safe for her return; she had left, she said, when the Ethiopians began massing for what turned out to be a full-scale offensive up the road into Eritrean territory.

She waved in the direction of her house, apparently unmoved by the charred carcass

of an Ethiopian soldier which, like many others, still lay on the ground.

On the Eritrean side a young man was making a similar reconnaissance. He too had left before the Ethiopian offensive, but he was far from persuaded that it would not be renewed. It was no time to bring his family back.

To someone like myself, who twice visited Eritrea when its present leaders were still rebels in the bush, it all had a familiar feel.

First, the clear Ethiopian lie, perhaps, but typical of the self-delusion with which, first under the Emperor Haile Selassie and then under Colonel Mengistu, the state conducted its counter-insurgency. Almost to the end, the rebels were dismissed as mere "bandits" on the brink of obliteration.

Second, the Ethiopians' dogged reliance on vastly supe-

This is a conflict as strangely conducted as it is trivial in origin. One of its strangest features is that Eritrea almost never says anything about it

rior but ill-trained and little-motivated manpower. "They must have lost at least 200 just coming up the slope to the border post," said the local commander, Colonel Mehretesh Mesfin, describing the first Ethiopian offensive. "And at the time we were not really ready for them. We also took a lot of prisoners; their morale was rock bottom."

Third, and most impressive, the wealth of captured Ethiopian equipment. Throughout their liberation war such spoils were the Eritreans' chief source of weaponry. "We captured three tanks intact, too," said the colonel. "They are already at the front."

Presumably they are already in action — against their own side. For the young man was right and the poor old lady disastrously wrong. Yesterday Eritrea actually announced that at 5.15am the Ethiopian army had started attacking Eritrean positions in Zalambesa.

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online

Every Thursday in the
The Guardian

"You've got your patrols going around, and these fences that are supposed to keep the bad elements out. These bad elements could be not only next door, but within yourself."
Jeff Bridges on Arlington Road

G2 page 10

Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

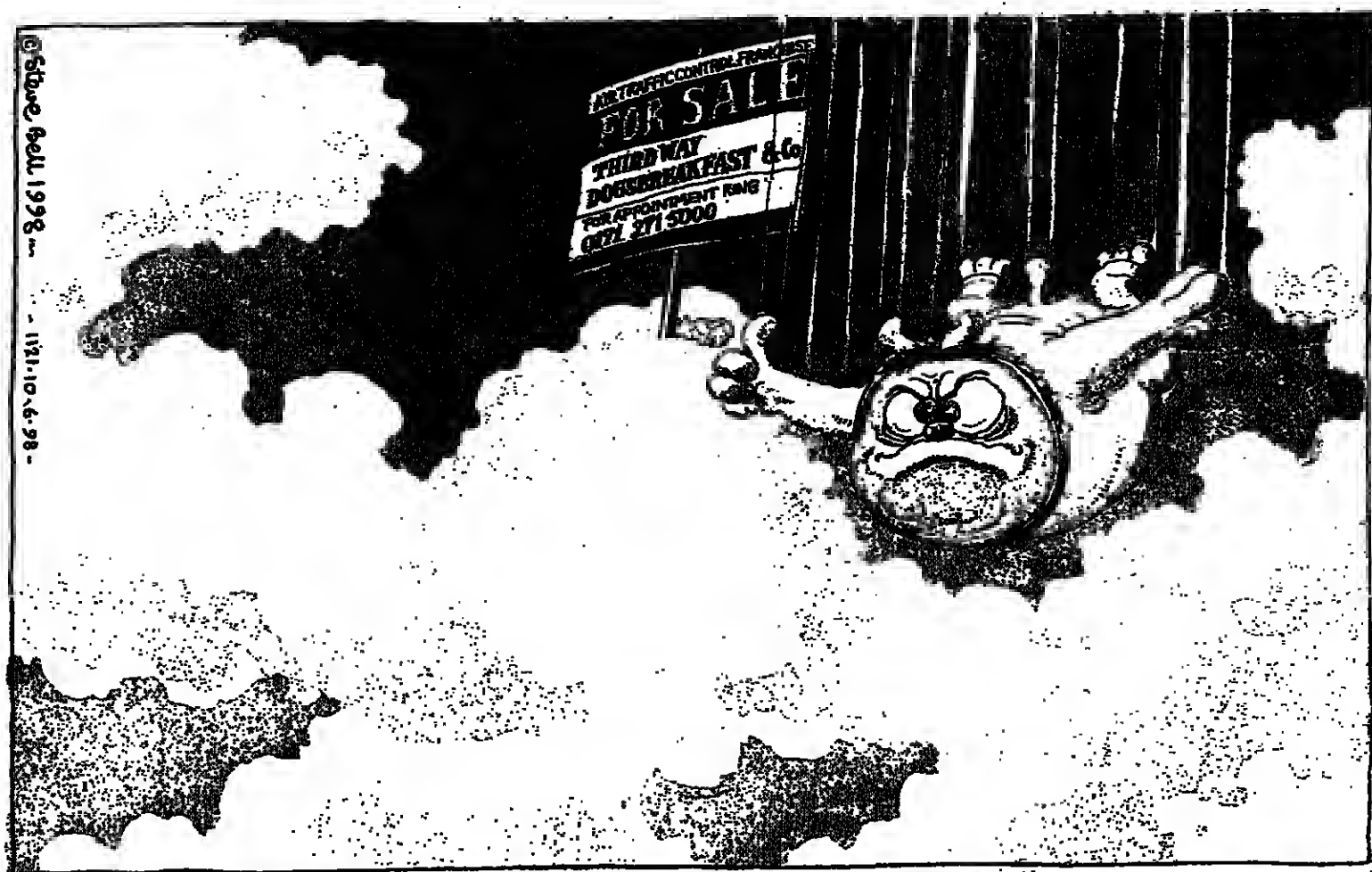
NOTHING delights our plucky wee cousins north of the border quite like the warm embrace of English support... so the Diary wishes Scotland (national emblem above) all the best today against Brazil. We in the south hope you do very well indeed. The hopes, meanwhile, of new Independent editor Simon Keizer are elsewhere. Simon has backed Argentina, with a bookmaker, of course, but also with the Diary. The precise terms of that wager, I won't reveal, and never will. Unless, of course, it should ever be the subject of debt-welching.

EVER the doughty fighter, Jeffrey Archer replies in the London Evening Standard to a corrosive attack on his integrity there in March by Paul Foot. There is much here of interest, but my eye is caught by Jeffrey's elegant rebuttal of one allegation — namely, the famous tale of how, in 1975, he was questioned by store detectives in Toronto when seen walking out with some suits. "Yes," he writes, "I was stopped in a Toronto store... As Michael Crick writes in his book, my 'confusion was understandable'. A British person would be unfamiliar with the idea that in North America two competing shops might cooperate by providing an inter-connecting passage for customers." Ah, just a bit of bafflement over a walkway. That should satisfy the Tory "ethics committee" examining Jeffrey's fitness to be Mayor of London. There is one problem, though. Although these words did indeed appear in the first edition of Crick's brilliant biography, they are missing from the second. This is because, according to Crick's Toronto source, in 1975 the walkway had not yet been built.

MEANWHILE, in the same article, Jeffrey reveals that the tip to buy Angela shares came not from his mistress Mary but Sir Nicholas Lloyd, the man who succeeded Tim Bell as chief of the Tory spokesman for Lord Andrew Lloyd-Webber. No doubt Sir Nick can confirm this, but for now he is out of contact. We know this because we tried to call him yesterday, in enquire after noble Lord Andrew's health. At his PR firm, Daniel (who thinks Lord Andrew is well, but cannot be sure) insisted that Nick was in "back-to-back meetings all day", but that he would ask, where he did not do so, and such insolence will no longer be tolerated. Unless Sir Nicholas calls today, by 2pm, a word will be had with Boris the Jackal Johnson. You have been warned.

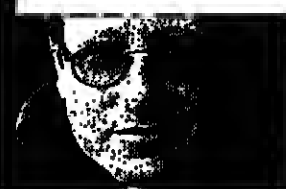
ANOTHER contender comes forward in the race to find the year's most amusing press release. This one is from Tory central office in Smith Square. Headlined "Streeter hits the ground running", it concerns Gary Streeter, new spokesman on international development. According to this document, Mr Streeter has just arrived in Russia, where he has issued a statement about "recent appeals for Sudan". Perhaps the poor fellow's a chum of Mark Thatcher? Even so, poor show.

IN a debate about the future of the House of Lords, Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader there, distinguishes himself. "He needs to unite his troops against an enemy which looks sort of formidable but which they feel is morally indefensible," said Cranborne, of Mr Blair. "We are the fuzzy wuzzles, but he has the Maxima gun and we have not." What an enchanting alternative to "Zulu warriors" this is. We read Frank Johnson, editor of the Spectator, to ask if Cranborne has done enough to win a weekly column in the magazine, or whether he needs to go a little further? "Fortunately, Taki George is still with us," he says, "but if we were regrettably faced with a vacancy, Lord Cranborne would definitely get a look in."



It isn't really Mick Jagger we hate for being rich. It's those others

Jonathan Freedland



THEY did the sex, they did the drugs and they certainly did the rock 'n' roll. They made Lodon swing, they got themselves arrested and they even found a new use for the humble Mars bar. But the Rolling Stones steered pretty clear of that other feature of 1960s life: the set-piece political protest. While John Lennon was returning his MBE over the British role in Biafra and staging a "bed-in" over Vietnam, Mick Jagger was bouncing around seeking more direct satisfaction. And yet now, in middle age, Mick, Keith and the creaky musicians still laughingly referred to as "the boys" have achieved what they never managed in their youth. They have got Britain talking about money and envy, class and privilege. The Rolling Stones — of all people — have started a debate about one of the central questions of politics: equality.

They didn't mean to, of course. Scared off by Gordon Brown's closure of a tax loophole, they were just trying to save themselves £12 million by binning the British leg of their Bridges to Babylon world tour. They didn't realise they were pitting themselves against the full might of the New Labour machine: the tax Exiles on Main Street v the Sultans of Spin. They learned soon enough. The band's first move was to cast themselves as artists strangled by the grabby hand of the Labour Government. The Mirror duly obliged by splashing the cancelled concerts as a "huge blow to Premier Tony Blair's 'Cool Britannia' crusade". But then the hangers of the Treasury team fought back, briefing that they "would take no lectures on tax from tax exiles". Juicy detail emerged of the Stones' non-relationship with the Inland Revenue, with extra colour on old rubber lips himself — "so mean he never buys a pint, haggles with workmen and scrutinises every bill," according to yesterday's Sun. By the time Labour's team had finished with them, Mick, Keith and the boys were recast as stingy old men, with "Gimme Tax Shelter" their anthem. They were now the Moaning Stones.

Labour succeeded in making a pop group the villain and a Chancellor the hero ("It's only tax-and-spend but I like it") by playing to deep-rooted, if rarely-articulated, British attitudes to wealth and those who have it. The spinmeisters had to tread carefully, for our feelings in this area are not clear or singular — but diverse and wildly contradictory. We like Richard Branson, but can't stand fat-cat QCs. We don't mind lottery winners becoming millionaires, but not Camelot directors. Paul Gascoigne's OK, but out the Duke of Westminster. Rupert Murdoch is out, but Sting is all right. So what are the rules? What makes one man an entrepreneurial genius and another a fat-cat? The Victorians defined a Deserving Poor, but who are today's Deserving Rich?

Perhaps it's those who have earned their money, the women and men who have worked for it. This might explain why increasing numbers of Britons can't stomach the enormous inherited riches of the royal family. The notion that vast fortunes can be gained simply on production of a birth certificate seems plain wrong — especially in a predominantly Protestant society like ours which places such heavy emphasis on work. Most Britons are not republicans — but large majorities were reluctant to fork out for the Queen's yacht or to repair her castle. On the contrary, they wanted her to pay her way like the rest of us. And yet work cannot be the key qualification of the Deserving Rich. Otherwise we would build with resentment at the multi-million jackpots doled out twice a week to those at the lucky end of the Camelot finger. We don't begrudge lottery winners their good fortune, we wish them well — chiefly because we believe we had as much chance of success as they did. To adopt the Camelot slogan: "It could have been us." Both the scratch-card holder and the Duke enjoy unearned income, but only one of them occupies a position that was equally open to us.

If hard work and equal chances are determining factors, then the owners of the privatised utilities fall on both counts. They cannot claim hard work: they have not built up their businesses themselves, but have taken over enterprises funded for decades through our taxes. Nor have they benefited from a lottery of equal chances. Rather they have inherited a right to print money that was effectively barred to the rest of us. Hence the loud cheers from a normally tax-averse public for Gordon Brown's windfall tax on the utilities. A third, less rational factor also guides our attitudes to wealth. We seem to dislike those who have made money from human necessity or, worse, human suffering. The outcry over the fee paid to Mary Bell and her mother, Gitta Sereny, was only the most recent and extreme case. But the backlash against high-earning lawyers — profiting from the misery of those in the legal system — flows from the same place. Likewise our reaction to a wartime black marketer, Bill Gates is dangerously close to entering this category himself now that computers are regarded as a staple of civilised life, he is no longer seen as a plucky entrepreneur but a monopolist exploiting a human need.

Those who profit from making us happy, by contrast, can earn as much as they like without a squeak of dissent. We're quite content to let Alan Shearer and Elton John pocket millions because they supply an entertainment we demand. Tom Cruise, David Beckham and John Grisham are in the clear because enough people believe they brighten their day. The Rolling Stones should have been in that group, too. But the Labour spinners skillfully bumped them into the fat-cat bracket, branding them not as self-made entrepreneurs but as parasites on "the support of British fans" — as if their vast fortunes aren't really theirs at all. The Rolling Stones have done us all a service, illuminating the odd lattice-work of prejudices and politics that governs our attitude to wealth. We should appreciate the moment while it lasts. After all, as the ageing band might say, "This could be the last time."

Biology is bursting out all over, as the prestigious science-book prize winner is revealed

Wonderful worlds

Ian McEwan

IN THE past 10 years, while we have been unable to prevent famine, or supply clean water to the world's poorest, the restless energies of science have brought about an explosion of new knowledge: in neuro-science, non-invasive techniques of investigation have led us to the beginning of an understanding of brain function; paleontology and molecular biology have revealed more than we could have dreamed of about human origins; in the past few years we have learned vastly more about the origins and structure of the universe; in physics, the re-investigation of multiple worlds theory has presented us with a bizarre but logically compelling theory of reality.

Science has also extended its domain. Words and concepts that it once denied itself have become common: consciousness, for example, and mind are legitimate concerns of speculation and research; human nature, which used to be the preserve of the novelist, is now wide open territory for evolutionary psychologists as they expound adaptationist accounts of our behaviour: everything from love and commerce, to art and gratitude have been explained — sometimes rather questionably — in evolutionary terms. But perhaps the most significant development has been the trend in contemporary science towards synthesis — towards the breakdown of the artificial compartments of academic specialisation — and to find the few, personally ex-pressed, natural laws that underpin a reality considered now to be fundamentally orderly.

This is an even grander project than, say, the binding of relativity theory to quantum mechanics. At its heart is the unearthly correspondence of mathematical theory and experimental data in physics; we don't know why there are laws about the natural world that can be expressed in maths — but they are there. So what are the rules? What makes one man an entrepreneurial genius and another a fat-cat? The Victorians defined a Deserving Poor, but who are today's Deserving Rich?

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Nobody said that constitutional reform was going to be easy. But now the process is under way, the fighting is certainly getting dirty. If Katie Grant is right, it is only a matter of time before white-robed figures with burning torches are hunting out English settlers from their beds and hanging them from lamp-posts. See where devolution has led us, and it hasn't even happened yet...

BEFORE the English residents of Scotland pack their bags and put their houses on the market though, it might be helpful to consider one or two facts that Katie Grant forgot to mention. The first is that, as well as being an English writer, Katie Grant is a Tory Party activist. Nothing wrong with that, except that it might encourage us to examine her arguments with a slightly sharper eye. As to the facts of the Aytton case, it seems clear that the Englishness of Aytton's accent provided a topic for abuse, rather than a motive for the assault. Far more important as a motive for the attack was the long-established rivalry between Balerno and the neighbouring, more working-class district of Currie. The rivalry is well entrenched in their respective schools, Currie and Balerno High, and so highly developed that residents of one district drink in pubs of the other at their peril.

The Ayttons were not attacked out of the blue as they walked home, they were chased as a result of a dispute that had been in progress for a couple of hours when the assault took place. It was not

The Ku Klux Clansmen

Isabel Hilton



the first time that a visit to the Kestrel bar by the Aytton brothers had provoked violence. As one drinker told reporters that day after the murder: "The kids from Currie and Balerno don't mix together. It sounds ridiculous because they are so close together. Mark used to come down here with his brother and fights would then break out. There's no reason for the bad feeling, but that's just the way it is. It starts off at school when Currie people say Balerno folk are snobs and then it continues in later life."

Finally, one of the three youths convicted of Mark Aytton's death had an English accent. Mark Aytton's death was a terrible and a squalid event, but an example of an unprovoked attack on a youth because of his perceived Englishness it was not. Katie Grant goes further. The existence of such anti-English groups as Settler Watch and Scottish Watch are cited as evidence of a growing racist militancy, encouraged, she alleges, by the SNP. And it's not only the English who are in danger. Quoting an unnamed SNP activist, she warns that Asians living in Scotland are also on the list of SNP targets. This will come as news, no doubt, to the 500 members of the SNP's largest growing section, Black Asians for Independence. The English-born chief executive of the SNP, Mike Russell, might also like to consider packing his bags. Yesterday, curiously, he did not seem to be making plans to move. As far as Settler Watch and Scottish Watch's alleged connections with the SNP are concerned, Mike Russell pointed out, it was the SNP which obtained an injunction against Scottish Watch during the Perth and Kinross by-election in 1996 for distributing leaflets urging voters to sup-



Nationalism in Scotland does not have to lead to anti-English racism

port the SNP. I may have missed it, but I don't recall any such injunction taken out by the Conservatives against groups like the British National Party or the National Front.

Why then, are peaceful readers of the Spectator being needlessly alarmed in this way? The incident reminds me of Enoch Powell's notorious rivers-of-blood speech. It tells us more about the author than it does about the real situation. Just as Enoch Powell could not imagine that Britain would accommodate her black and Asian citizens without widespread racist violence, Katie Grant seems unable to imagine a Scottish nationalism that does not lead to mass anti-English racism.

Certainly ethnic resentment exists. It always has. But does it exist at a level that justifies Katie Grant's alarm, to a greater degree, for instance, than anti-black, anti-Irish sentiment in England or, indeed, anti-Scotts sentiment in England? I doubt it.

Devolution has churned up some startlingly anti-Scottish rhetoric in the pages of the national press, and perhaps it is best that such sentiments come into the light. But devolution and, if it comes to it, independence for Scotland are political issues. We do little service to politics by turning them, falsely, into racial ones. Polly Toynbee is away

The Guardian

Taking care in Kosovo
by peaceful means first

Letters to the Editor

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صلى الله عليه وسلم

The Guardian

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Taking care in Kosovo

Try peaceful means first

INTERVENTION in the Kosovo crisis is essential: the EU and its partners must decide on action or else be revealed as hopelessly irresolute. But we need to be absolutely clear why it is justified and how far it should go. The offensive by Serb special forces against fighters and strongholds of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) has killed several hundred civilians and driven thousands to become refugees. Unlike Bosnia this is not ethnic cleansing to make room for another community: that would hardly make sense with the Serbs so vastly outnumbered. But it is a brutal police operation which the Bosnian precedent suggests could escalate into something even worse. Also, it is being undertaken in a country where the majority have been denied their rights for a decade.

International law and opinion has moved in recent years towards acknowledging that gross breaches of human rights may justify intervention from outside even if this means violating national sovereignty. The claim of Slobodan Milosevic's rump Federation to sovereign jurisdiction in Kosovo is already flawed by the repressive way in which it has been exercised. We have to admit that the international community does not usually leap in when human rights are being violated. Otherwise, UN peace-makers would have landed in East Timor years ago. But this does not vitiate the principle. Kosovo may still be regarded as a borderline case, but there is another factor to be considered. Does the situation there

quality under chapter VII of the UN Charter as a threat to international peace? This too may be a borderline judgment right now, but any further escalation would set the southern Balkans ablaze. The combination of these two elements fully justifies plans for intervention: how far they are implemented will depend on how far the situation deteriorates.

What cannot be justified is intervention which would actively assist the cause of the KLA — except in the limited sense of preserving their families from slaughter. The international goal must be to restore the conditions where a non-violent solution can be negotiated in Kosovo. As the former EU representative in Bosnia, Carl Bildt, argues, EU governments must ensure that conduits of arms and money from their countries to the KLA are cut off if NATO forces are placed on the Albanian and Macedonian borders, the *cordon sanitaire* has to operate in both directions. Yesterday's appeal by the UN human rights commissioner Mary Robinson to "curb the spiral of violence" is also addressed to both sides. This is right both in principle and because to allow the KLA a free run would destroy any chance of Serb co-operation.

The resolution now being sought by Britain from the UN Security Council to authorise "all necessary means" to restore peace in Kosovo is not a happy way forward. This catch-all phrase is too obvious a cover to mask disagreement within the Permanent Five. It may be necessary as one part of the effort to keep Mr Milosevic guessing but further authority would be needed for cross-border intervention. In any case it is far too early to consider sending land forces into Kosovo: it is probably also premature to threaten aerial interdiction though this may become necessary. The immediate priority is to position

troops on the Albanian frontier, with a greatly increased force in Macedonia; at the same time diplomatic and economic pressures must be stepped up in pursuit of a cessation of fighting in western Kosovo. The goal should be to induce a Serb pull-back, accompanied by a KLA ceasefire, to be policed by international monitors. If this fails, the other alternatives must be considered. Kosovo is on the brink of a much worse disaster; it needs clarity of principle, but caution in execution, to have any chance of bringing it back from the edge.

Spend and spend

Heretical cures urged on Japan

LOOKING FORWARD to a real economic stimulus in Japan is beginning to look like a slow-playing record of waiting for Godot. While Ryutaro Hashimoto's beleaguered government procrastinates over its fifth successive reflationary package, the yen plunges to ludicrous depths and the economy sinks into a very serious, but avoidable recession. As a result of the fall of the yen (a dollar now buys 140 yen compared with only 80 three years ago) Japanese exporters get a stimulus they don't need and Americans a rare opportunity to buy Japanese financial companies cheaply. But the rest of Asia watches with trepidation because an ever more competitive yen will force the shell-shocked economies to devalue yet again to maintain competitiveness. Faced with this problem economists reached for their copies of Keynes, but they should be guided by pools winner Viv Nicholson because the short-term solution for Japan is spend, spend, spend.

But this is easier said than done. Since last year's disastrous decision to raise VAT

when it should have been reduced, consumer confidence has been shattered and the efficacy of fiscal policy put in doubt. Even if the tax cuts in the pipeline emerge unscathed from the Diet, they won't necessarily be spent. Japanese consumers have lost so much confidence in government and are so worried about their own futures that they may save the proceeds of the tax cuts — especially now they have the freedom, thanks to Big Bang, to invest (at much higher rates of interest) abroad. This has led economists as far apart on the spectrum as Milton Friedman, the godfather of monetarism, and Paul Krugman of MIT to recommend what would normally be regarded as an heretical solution: prolonged growth of the money supply and sustained inflation in order to persuade a sceptical populace that their money is better spent than saved. It is time that Japan's plight moved higher up the world's agenda. It is not only important in itself as the second largest economy but a vibrant Japan is the key to the rescue of the rest of Asia because of the huge trading links. And Asia's revival would help prolong America's recovery and prevent Europe's incipient expansion from being stalled. We are all in this together.

Staff on the ball

Bosses need flexitime for Cup

CRAIG Brown and Glenn Hoddle are not the only managers facing difficult decisions this morning. What do the managers of the nation's 29 million workers do about the World Cup? Today's opening match between Scotland and Brazil kicks off at 4.30pm and England's first match next Monday is at 1.30pm. Remember, it is eight years since England last played in a World

Cup. Over 24 million people watched England play Cameroon in the 1990 quarter-final and football fever has grown even more intense since then. About half the World Cup matches fall during working hours. Will radio come into its own? Will managers relay the full match commentaries on Radio Five over the tannoy? Even between South Korea and Mexico? That's doubtful. Will they wheel in televisions, erect big screens, or allow extended breaks for the key British games?

Surveys of employers yesterday met with a mixed response. The most benevolent were the puritanical Scots. A survey by the Institute of Personnel and Development (IPD) found one in five workers in Scotland would be allowed time off to watch compared with one in seven in England. Even the dour Donald Dewar was entering into the spirit by allowing the 5,000 civil servants in the Scottish Office the option of leaving early. This left Whitehall in a tizzy. Should it follow suit next Monday?

Clearly it's easier for some employers than others. Airport flight controllers, hopefully, will not be allowed to listen to Radio Five commentaries. Ideally, the nation's neurosurgeons will be persuaded to keep their eyes on the operating table, rather than on any portable TV. But give a cheer to Peugeot which is relaying all the big matches on the company tannoy in Coventry — and a boo to Ford for banning radios and TVs. The organised, of course, have already booked days off. Companies operating flexitime will be particularly popular. But if employers don't want to see a rash of unpredictable fevers — only 3 per cent in the IPD survey said they would be taking "a sickie" — they'll need to be as flexible as possible. World Cup fever only lasts for four weeks. And we may not even quality next time.

Letters to the Editor

Lessons in bad taste

TONY'S Toodles should ponder whether they would have been able to go to university if their proposals had existed (Blunkett defied by 31 rebels, June 9). Under the new system, where will the teachers of the future come from? They are hardly likely to be attracted to the salaries on offer when they have a sizeable loan to repay. And what about female students? Average earnings for women are still well below those of men. Suzanne Bosman, London.

THANKS for Martin Thorpe's preview of England's forthcoming clash with Tunisia. Presumably his report on the Tunisia v Wales match, with insights into Welsh defensive frailty and Bobby Gould's position as coach will follow. That word-count in full: Tunisia (17); England (18); Wales (18); Gould (5); Owen Davies, London.

AN SAN example of genetic engineering, from the breeding laboratory of the royal family, Prince Charles is in an excellent situation to raise questions about gene manipulation (Charles the campaigner, June 9). The outcome can only be deleterious. Rodney Hedley, London.

WRITE to express my profound disgust that you print a picture of two people fondling (Dutch couple, June 9). I am a Guardian reader of 30 years and if you dare reply that it is "art" I shall never buy your paper again. Rita Fox, Bolton.

WILL the Stones sing to the Chancellor: "Brown, sugar, you're not taste so good"? Valerie Vaz, Leicester.

To get the Lords a-leaping

HUGO Young (Comment, June 9) dismisses our Demos pamphlet because it "says the legislative task is so serious that it should be handed to people chosen by lottery". We propose nothing of the sort. If the role of the second chamber is to be limited to scrutiny, then this could be carried out by citizens' juries alongside appointed members. Such an assembly could be 50 per cent women and drawn proportionately from the regions. The last state to cling to hereditary parliament could become the first to introduce direct democracy. What Young regards as perjury, the world might see as an example of the creativity and inventiveness of the British people — once they have discarded the influence of their paternalistic elite. Anthony Barnett, Peter Carty, London.

HUGO Young aims at the wrong target... no matter how much the Lords is reformed it does nothing to prevent the executive dictatorship enjoyed by governments with large majorities.

Until there is a clear separation of powers between the Commons and the executive, we have a massive democratic deficit in Britain. Ministers should be appointed from outside of Westminster and approved by Parliament for fixed terms of office. Then we can look at Lords reform. Adrian Bates, Winchester.

HUGO Young proposes that the designation "Lord" should disappear. This would mean the abolition of the "House of Lords" is the destruction of an ancient British institution. Result? Horror, countryside, Middle England devastated, Labour Government brought down... To achieve what Mr Young desires, the approach must be the opposite: anyone nominated or elected to the upper chamber should become Lord or Lady whatever for as long as they serve in the House, which remains a House of Lords. By this means, nothing important has changed. We can all support the reforms with a sigh of relief. John Tully, London.

WHY does Britain not emulate what it so successfully introduced to Germany more than 50 years ago: an upper house constituted of elected regional representatives? Wolfram Zwierner, Kingston University, Surrey.

REFORM should wait until development of the new regional parliaments is complete, including devolution to an English parliament. A logical second chamber would then be an over-arching British house of deputies. Richard Parish, Manchester.

THERE is a simple and principled way out of Labour's dilemma over the composition of an "interim" House of Lords (Leader, 5 June). New and temporary peers could be appointed to produce a second chamber which was proportional in its make-up to the popular vote in June 1997. Party leaders could suggest names and the process could be made an exercise in openness. Stuart Weir, Director, Democratic Audit, University of Essex.

Don't decry cut-price Pool of light

VICTOR Keegan gave an unjustifiably negative view of the Electricity Pool (Economist Notebook, June 9). Electricity customers now pay \$2.5 billion a year less for their electricity than they did in the year before the setting up of the Pool. Electricity production is efficient, reliable, clean and achieved more safely than ever before. The coal, nuclear, gas fuel mix has moved from 78:17:5 to 54:25:21. The lights have stayed on. The design of the Pool and the performance of electricity producers can both claim credit for this.

The basis of the Pool is simple and logical. Generators bid a price for generating units and a price for running them. Units run in a merit order that ensures the lowest cost of production. A clearing price is set every half-hour from the costs of the last generating unit called to run. The Pool does not discriminate on the grounds of fuel type but the pricing mechanism does prevent "inefficient" plants from setting prices. The price is published each day. These principles have been adopted

by every electricity market in the world since. Before making drastic moves away from the Pool, the Government should consider the importance of the clear reference price that facilitates competitive entry to the market. The Association of Electricity Producers represents more than 100 companies — both large and small — generating covering all technologies. The large membership is a testament to what an open, transparent market can achieve: secure supplies, diversity of technology and falling prices. Nicola Steen, Association of Electricity Producers, London.



From Whitehall, on message

IT is not the New Deals which are on the wrong track (Debate, June 9) but the premise of Peter Robinson's argument — that if the fall in long-term unemployment is inflationary, then the New Deal will "simply reinforce the inflationary pressures". Wage-related inflationary pressures arise because the demand for labour is not being met. We would have less inflationary pressure if more unemployed people were able to take up jobs. By helping to equip people with skills and recent work experience, the New Deal does just that. Andrew Smith MP, Minister for Employment.

ROY Hattersley only told half the story about the Government's response to the report of the Pension Provision Group (Rundpice, June 9). Our priority to get help to Britain's poorest pensioners. In welcoming last week's report, I pointed out that the findings of the report underline our recognition that there is a particular need to provide more help to those on lowest incomes — those who are not, or have not been able to save for their own retirement on top of their basic state pension. Harriet Harman MP, Secretary of State for Social Security.

Shop soiled

IN defence of ITV's widely ridiculed documentary *Diana — Secrets Behind the Crash*, Steve Anderson claims (The Final Mystery, Media, June 8) that a number of newspaper journalists "foster a hatred of Al Fayed because he's an Arab who runs Harrods and came close to joining the royal family". His suggestion that criticism of Al Fayed is motivated by racial hatred tells us something about the kind of editorial judgment


that went into the making of the film and subsequently informed Mr Anderson's decision to accept it for the ITV network. It also happens to follow Al Fayed's own routine accusations, which are designed to explain and to some extent deflect the serious worries that people have about his behaviour. For the record, I am not a racist and wholeheartedly object to being called one in defence of such a shoddy piece of work. Henry Porter, London.

Tough and tender, Thesiger outguns any woman writer

YOUR article on the bid by so-called women travel writers to take the "testosterone out of adventure" as you put it (Women take shot at travel writers, June 8) has the whiff of a manufactured conflict. Men have no monopoly on physical hardness and no need for testosterone sensitivity. Wilfred Thesiger combines both. To paint him as gung-ho and simply motivated by macho empire-building is a ridiculous distortion. It is not through shooting "70 lions in Sudan and 2,000 Arab boys in Iraq" that Thesiger is known and admired by thousands in the West and in the Arab world. If he had not lived with and written about the Marsh Arabs of southern Iraq, few would have heard of this age-old civilisation now under unprecedented threat from the Baghdad regime. His account of crossing the Empty Quarter of Arabia in the 1940s is a hymn to the skills and the hardiness, the generosity and the moral code

of the people he lived with and depended on. Arabian Sands shows such appreciation of the fast disappearing culture of the Bedu of Arabia that it started many, including myself, on a lifelong study of Arab culture and language. His notion of sexual roles might be an anachronism today but few travel writers — men or women — could claim to get under the skin of a society as he did. His critics will damage his reputation as much as the dog in the Arab proverb who barks at the passing caravan. David Powell, Richmond, Surrey.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used. The Country Diary is on Page 10.



NUJ

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"Put the NUJ members first and the divisions behind us. Vote for Unity, Vote John Fray"
John Foster, General Secretary in personal capacity

Come on, Tunisia

Mark Steel



HERE we go then. The big day has finally arrived, and yet, as with a six-year-old's birthday party you can be certain that the months of build-up and anticipation will turn into over-excitement, a massive tantrum and screaming of "It's not fair. I want to win the prize". Other countries will be knocked out, but the English will be hurt

the most, because only the English are brought up to believe in their natural superiority. Which is why, at the age of eight, my schoolfriends and I would march round the playground chanting "Two world wars and one World Cup. Do-da. Do-da." I may be wrong, but I doubt whether this happens in other nations. Do kids in Luxembourg chant "Two Eurovision song contests and one radio station. Do-da. Do-da." So inevitably today's enthusiasm will descend into vitriol and bitterness, because only in England are we supposed to win.

Even at the height of Britain's standing, this led to disaster whenever we entered a competition. In the race to the South Pole, the Norwegian, Amundsen, said something like: "I believe we'll get there first. Because we've got the best boots, best maps, best clothing, we've got dogs and you haven't, we're used to the cold and you're not, and you

don't know the way." And Captain Scott replied: "Well, you're wrong there, old chap. You see we'll get there first because we're English." And froze to death.

Then there were probably huge headlines in the tabloids like "It's a Viking disgrace". Surely the gap between the world league of importance is what causes the frustration which leads to foreign bars being trashed. How dare these people beat us: we used to own Australia.

So the night we lost to Germany in Euro '96, crowds of lads went round smashing up Mercedes cars. Which means someone had better arrange extra security at London Zoo, because if we lose to Tunisia they'll be breaking in for a fight with the camel.

Victory, on the other hand, brings celebrations, which are even worse. Other cultures

celebrate with traditions like roasting a whole ox over a spit for the entire village, and dancing all night to thank the Gods for a healthy harvest. We go up the Strand and bare our arses to the passengers on the round-London open-top tourist bus.

Either way, in three weeks' time, the bonhomie of World Cup fever will have degenerated into spitting and snarling. Before the Euro '98 match, Fiers Morgan of the Daily Mirror planned to take a tank on to the Germans' training ground. Just for a laugh, so they're probably already planned their stunts for every possible opponent in the later rounds: dumping a butter mountain on the training ground for Belgium, getting the SAS to storm the hotel for Iran and so on. And to cater for the middle-class turn to the game, maybe disrupting the French players' training with a production of Henry V by the RSC.

Most people will reject the more aggressive behaviour, but supporting England brings out the worst in almost everyone. Atheists and republicans find themselves singing that God saves our gracious Queen and anti-racists start waving Union Jacks about. "Well," they say, "that's because we need to recapture the true meaning of the flag from the right." When did it have a liberal meaning then? When Africans were dragged on to a ship to be taken into slavery, would they see the Union Jack fluttering overhead and say: "Well at least we've got a pretty flag to look at."

You might as well say: "Why should we let racists get away with the fun of wearing white sheets and hoods? From now on, I'm going to wear them in the High Street to recapture their true meaning."

One of the turning points for the descendants of those slaves came in the 1950s, when the West Indian cricket team beat the English for the first time. This had a significant bearing on the anti-colonial movement, encouraging the population to reject the mythology that they were inferior to the British, and believe that they could govern themselves.

Every time England loses at sport, another little dent is made in the notion of a natural order which we lead the world. So there's no way of being proud to be English, without accepting the connotations of the legacy of empire.

Which is why, unless we win, the English will enjoy the World Cup less than any other nation. There is one thing in England's favour this time though. No-one will be able to claim the goal that puts us out is the "hand of God". Because Glenn can just say: "No it wasn't. I spoke to him just after half-time and he didn't know anything about it."

Cardinal Agostino Casaroli

A diplomatic progress by dialogue

In September 1986, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, who has died in Rome at the age of 83, was asked to speak at the dedication of the statue of Pope Paul VI in the cathedral at Brescia. "Man is made for dialogue," he said. "The story of human progress is nothing other than the chronicle of the results obtained by dialogue with other people." He was speaking of Pope Paul's approach, but it was as much a description of his own service to the Holy See, which he entered in 1940, and from which he retired (insofar as cardinals are allowed to retire) in 1990. By that time he had become, as Secretary of State, the most powerful man in the Vatican, and therefore, after the Pope himself, in the Roman Catholic Church worldwide.

The Secretary of State is the Pope's prime minister, in charge of all aspects of eccl-

esiastical government except for those of external or, as the Vatican calls them, public affairs. He had, however, for a dozen years from 1967 been secretary of the Council of Public Affairs and he continued to play something of that role even after his appointment by the present Pope to the post of Secretary of State in 1979, with the customary rank of cardinal. It was rumoured at the time that John Paul II was hesitant about the choice of Casaroli. As secretary for the Council of Public Affairs he had travelled frequently to Poland, and was known to the Pope as a visitor to his palace in Cracow. But the Polish hierarchy, and the Polish prime minister, were uneasy with the intervention of Rome in what they regarded as their internal affairs. Yet in the end it was Wyszynski who advised John Paul that, as the first

non-Italian on the papal throne in 400 years, he needed the experienced Casaroli beside him.

The relationship between the two, though it lasted a decade, was not an easy one. Casaroli was concerned to preserve the softly, softly approach with communist regimes. This he had initiated under Paul VI, and between 1964 and 1966 had seen it bear fruit in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

He was criticised for compromising with regimes hostile to Christianity — he became the particular *bête noire* of some extreme right-wing Catholics — but he argued pragmatically that a Church with some degree of independence was better than one with none. He found the more confrontational approach of John Paul II hard to take. This became especially clear when he accompanied the Pope on the 1984 visit to



Poland, a trip which included a particularly fraught encounter with General Jaruzelski. Casaroli was readier than was the Pope to give the General credit for keeping Poland free from Soviet invasion. Casaroli was a loyal servant of the papacy, but nonetheless found the Pope's

He was criticised for compromising with regimes hostile to Christianity, and found the more confrontational approach of John Paul II hard to take

involvement in Poland somewhat difficult to handle.

The Church's political line, he told the diplomatic corps in Rome in 1986, should be inspired by a spirit of impartiality and non-alignment. It should not be swayed by preconceived sympathies, antipathies or ideology — though,

he added, that did not mean putting justice and injustice on the same footing. Shortly before his retirement, addressing a gathering to Cracow, he attributed the collapse of the communist regimes in Europe to the policies of John Paul II, but also to the *Ossipovich* of John XXIII and Paul VI which he had helped to frame and to implement. And, he added, to the 1978 Helsinki Agreement which he signed on behalf of the Holy See — the first time the Holy See had been a signatory to an international treaty since the 1815 Congress of Vienna. But in the same speech in Cracow he insisted, too, that the part played by Mikhail Gorbachev should not be underestimated. The late cardinal met Gorbachev in Moscow in 1988, on a visit there ostensibly to commemorate the millennium of Christianity. He also carried a letter to Gor-

bachev from the Pope, which he delivered personally and which the Russian leader read on the spot. The outcome was the historic meeting between Gorbachev and John Paul II at the Vatican in December the following year. It was a far cry from the days when the KGB attempted to hug the cardinal — including, it has been claimed (though the Vatican has denied it), hiding a listening device in a statue in the Secretary of State's apartment.

Casaroli was born in Castel San Giovanni, near Piacenza, and entered the diocesan seminary. He was sent to Rome's Lateran University, and was ordained priest in 1937, before going on for further studies at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy, where he later became "professor of diplomatic style".

His first major diplomatic mission was in 1955, to Latin America, and he maintained

a considerable interest in Latin American affairs ever after. It was partly for this reason that, in 1989, he distanced himself from a document criticising liberation theology produced by Cardinal Ratzinger's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican's doctrinal watchdog. Had Casaroli not done so, his carefully nurtured relations with eastern bloc states might have been undermined by the document's passing swipe at communism, but it was extraordinary for one Vatican official so publicly to rebuke another's department. Because John Paul II was known to share Cardinal Ratzinger's antipathy to liberation theology it was all the more courageous an act.

Michael Walsh
Agostino Casaroli, Vatican diplomat, born November 24, 1914; died June 8, 1998

Dorothy Donegan

Classics and pure jazz

JAZZ anoraks were sometimes dismissive of the talents of the pianist Dorothy Donegan, who has died aged 76. One discographer referred to her recordings as "belonging to the fringe of jazz" and refused to list them. Even Leonard Feather, something of a cheerleader for women in jazz, sniffed that her appeal is based on her visual antics. Audiences, however, were far more enthusiastic, reveling in her showmanship, feisty personality and dazzling technique.

The daughter of a railway chef, Donegan was born in Chicago and started classical piano when only six. Within a few years, she was proficient enough to play paid engagements at local churches and house-rent parties. When she entered the famed Du Sable High School in the city's South Side, she was further encouraged by the legendary teacher, Captain Walter Dwyer, who gave Donegan vital grounding in his Boeson big band. "He'd cuss you out and make you play the right changes," she said. "Born between her classical and jazz interests, she went on to study at the Chicago Conservatory of Music and might well, had the racial climate allowed, have made a career as a classical performer."

Her first real chance came in 1940 when she played a solo engagement downtown at Costello's Grill, at a time when black performers were

rarely employed in white locations. Always possessed of a "rapid tongue" she was dismissed for insulting one of the Costello family, who had harassed her. Her first foray into jazz was a step further when she joined the Three Shells and a Flat, who complained to the Musicians' Union when she "jammed" a religious song. The black union fined her for playing sanctified music in a night club.

Frank enough to explain that she "got into entertainment when I decided I wasn't attractive enough to get a husband", Donegan's keyboard bravura and eye-catching dress sense brought her considerable prominence in the wartime years. She played Chicago's best clubs at a time when its entertainment strip was regularly host to stars like Red Allen and Louis Jordan, and was soon commanding substantial fees. When she worked as a single at the Garrick Stage Bar, the club's owner, Joe Sherman, presented her in concert at Orchestra Hall. Donegan said she was the first jazz pianist, black or white, to play in this important venue, and typically chose to play classical pieces in the first half, followed by "pure jazz and boogie-woogie" in the second. Rave reviews followed, leading to her on-screen inclusion in *Sensations of 1945*, a backstage musical starring Eleanor Powell, which also featured W.C. Fields, Sophie



Keyboard bravura... audiences loved Dorothy Donegan's showmanship and dazzling technique. PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER VACHER

Tucker and Cab Calloway. Donegan recalled that the director "made me put on some very dark make-up so that the public wouldn't mistake me for something other than a black woman".

In the ensuing years, Donegan went on to record often and to play major clubs and lounges in New York and all over the US. When the American club scene subsided, she started to work abroad, playing a well-received three-week stint at London's Pizza on the Park in January 1953, and ap-

pearing regularly at the major European festivals. Never one to compromise, Donegan could hold her own, solo or with her trio, in grand concert halls and upmarket supper clubs. At North Sea in 1950, she played mesmerisingly well, her fast-moving technique reminiscent of Art Tatum, her primary influence, fixing a beady eye on the audience, joshing with them, wriggling and flashing a well proportioned leg, the antics just occasionally obscuring the musical value of her perfor-

mance. For all that, the crowd loved her, literally blocking her exit from the stage.

This "complete entertainer" was much heartened in 1952 when she was given an American Jazz Masters Award (and \$30,000) from the National Endowment of the Arts. Her two *Chiaroscuro* albums (made on the SS Norway jazz cruise in the 1950s) earned high critical praise, and as she said, "Everybody calls me now." Rediscovered, this feisty, self-confessed show-paholic played with the New

Orleans Philharmonic and then at the White House, where, it was reported, she "tore the place apart".

When cancer was first diagnosed last October, she sought alternative therapy in Mexico, but to no avail. Three times married and divorced, Dorothy Donegan is survived by her two sons.

Peter Vacher
Dorothy Donegan, pianist and vocalist, born April 6, 1922; died May 19, 1998

Birthdays

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, 77; Saul Bellow, author, 83; Gordon Burns, television presenter, 56; Ruth Campbell, professor of psychology, Goldsmith's College, 54; Sir Bryan Cartledge, former principal, Lincoln College, Oxford, 67; Sir Brinsley Ford, former chairman, National Art Collections Fund, 90; Sir Peter Gibson, chairman, Law Commission, 64; Graham Carleton Greene, literary agent, 62; Guy Harwood, racehorse trainer, 69; Dr Polly Hill,

social anthropologist, 84; Lindsay Hoyle, Labour MP, 41; Liz Hurley, actress and model, 33; Garry Ryne, theatre director, Lionel Jeffries, actor, 72; Simon Jenkins, columnist, 55; Michael Kenny, sculptor, 57; Anne Lapping, television producer, 57; Tom Pendry, Labour MP, 63; David Platt, footballer, 32; Anthony Rooley, librettist, 54; Maurice Sendak, writer, illustrator and theatrical designer, 70; Phil Tuck, jockey, 42; Bill Waddington, actor and comedian, 82.

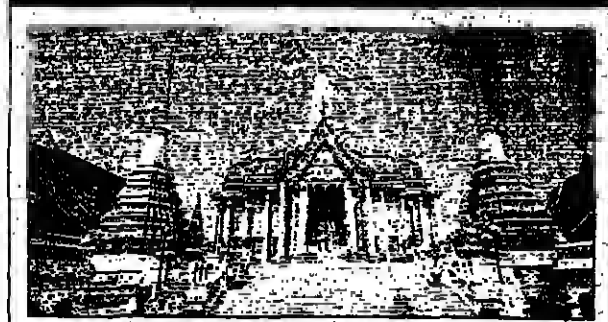
A Country Diary

LIZARD: Past the high barbed-wire fence, surrounding RNAS Culdroe, the road is thick with fern, campion and sorrel, with masses of water hemlock on wetter verges. Whistling Jack greys on garden hedges in Lizard town and, on the south-facing point, invasive *Hottentot* Fig cascades down the cliff, shocking pink above shoals of jagged black rocks and the turbulent swirling sea. Victorian travellers to nearby Synnace Cove rode down on donkeys clustered around them on the dizzying path, perched on top of a stone-faced bank. Today's car-borne tourists are channelled from a cliff-top park, along a surfaced path, away from former badly eroded cliffs, through the Cornish heath and salt-marshes. Interspersed with vivid bloody cranesbill, and dainty dropwort, to the final rocky descent. At low tide, huge serpentine boulders, encrusted with barnacles and limpets, draped with seaweed, are beached amongst white sand, beside translucent, towering

waves. Walls of interconnected caves glister red, grey and green above tide-scoured sandy floors and, offshore, the rocky islets are covered with distinctive yellow lichen. By evening, most day visitors have left the Lizard: the village green is deserted of cars; polished serpentine workshops, Anne's pasty shop and cafes, selling crab-sandwiches, burgers and cream teas, are closed. On the edge of town, the De-nance herd of creamy brown horses cluster around the entrance to the most southerly milking parlour, backed by the sparkling sea, distant Lion Rock silhouetted against the sun. These dainty producers of rich milk, like the Guernseys, were once widespread in west Cornwall. Later in the year, led by *Survivor's* Tulip, they will tread lightly across cliff land, on grazing managed by English Nature. Until then, swaths of sea pinks flower untrampled by all except walkers along the coastal path.

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General Sani Abacha

Broken promises of a ruthless dictator

THE death of the Nigerian president General Sani Abacha, reportedly at the age of 54, elicited various reactions in his home country, a land he had ruled with unrelenting ruthlessness since he seized power in a palace coup on October 17, 1998. Many celebrated in the streets.

Some, especially those who benefited from the gargantuan corruption he instituted, mourned. All were shocked. Not because he died so "ordinarily", but on account of the suddenness of it all.

During the past year, rumours and newspaper reports on the poor state of his health never abated. The rumour was not helped by the reclusive nature of the dictator, who feared so much for his safety, and the tired, drawn and worn look he presented during the few occasions he ventured outside Aso Rock, the heavily guarded seat of government in the capital, Abuja.

Abacha was born in Kano, the leading commercial centre in northern Nigeria. His parents were of the Kanuri

ethnic group, who inhabit the north-eastern part of the country. After primary school, he attended the provincial secondary school (now government college) in Kano, enlisting in the army soon afterwards. His military training was initially at the Nigerian Military Training College in Kaduna in 1962, after which he attended Mons Defence Cadet College at Aldershot in 1963.

Less than three years after Abacha was commissioned, Nigeria got its first military government, headed by General JTU Aguiyi-Ironsi in January 1966. Six months later Abacha, then a lieutenant, was among the northern officers who carried out a coup in which Ironsi lost his life and General Yakubu Gowon became head of state.

Abacha fought on the federal side during the 30-month Biafran war and was reputed to be a brave soldier. Promoted to lieutenant-colonel in 1975, he became a brigadier five years later. It was in this rank, and as commander of the 9th Mechanised Brigade, that he came to national at-

tention when on December 31, 1983 he announced the *coup d'état* that toppled the elected government of President Shehu Shagari and put General Muhammadu Buhari in power. Before then Abacha was an unknown quantity outside military circles, for unlike his peers, he had never held a political appointment.

Buhari rewarded Abacha with the position of commander of the 2nd Mechanised Division and membership of the Supreme Military Council (SMC). Less than two years later, however, Abacha returned to the airwaves to announce the ousting of Buhari and what later became the dictatorship of General Ibrahim Babangida. All through the eight years of Babangida's dictatorship, Abacha lurked in the background, first as chief of army staff and then as defence minister and chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, the iron fist behind the military regime.

Abacha's day for the top job came in 1993 when Babangida annulled this presidential election won freely and fairly by Chief Moshood Abiola. Even though Abacha was one



Abacha... stubbornness

of those who engineered the annulment, he allowed Babangida to shoulder the blame alone and he swept away by the unpopularity it generated. An interim government headed by Chief Ernest Shonekan, a civilian lackey of Babangida's, took over but got sacked two months later by Abacha himself.

Abacha promised a sovereign national conference when he took over power. He broke the promise. He promised that his tenure would be

brief. He broke that promise too. Worst of all, he visited Nigeria with a brand of wickedness rarely encountered in the annals of Nigerian history. Abiola, who won the 1993 presidential election, was detained in 1994 and has remained in detention.

While he cooled his heels, assassins, suspected to be government-sponsored, killed his wife in the streets of Lagos. General Obasanjo, a former head of state, was jailed for "coup plotting" together with his deputy, General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, who died in prison last December.

Leaders of oil workers who organised strikes in 1994 have remained in detention without trial. Opposition figures who escaped death and detention ended up in exile. In November 1995, Abacha caused international odium when he executed the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni activists.

What people found most difficult to understand was Abacha's stubbornness. Simply because President Nelson Mandela criticised the execution of Saro-Wiwa, Abacha prevented the Super Eagles,

the country's soccer team, from defending their hard-won African championship in South Africa. In March, Pope John Paul II visited Nigeria and gave Abacha a long list of whom he wanted released. Abacha simply ignored the list.

The most appalling thing about Abacha's leadership of Nigeria was his transition to the civil rule programme. He manufactured five political parties and had his cronies elected as their leaders. In April, all the parties "nominated" him the sole presidential candidate — which meant that had death not called, he would have been installed the "elected" president by October 1, 1998.

Abacha is survived by his wife and 10 children, the eldest, Ibrahim, a lawyer, having died in a plane crash in January, 1996.

Chuks Okeghumun

Sani Abacha, soldier and politician, born September 20, 1943; died June 8, 1998

This obituary appeared in later editions yesterday

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN OUR leader yesterday on the consultation document on pension-sharing for divorcing couples (Page 19), we noted correctly that in England the way a pension would be divided would not be dependent on the length of the marriage, and asked: "Is a 50:50 split fair for people who marry late?"

The Pension Minister's office points out that there would not be an automatic 50:50 sharing. Courts would take

into account the division of other assets which a couple jointly owned.

THE CHIEF executive of British Telecom is Sir Peter Bonham, not Sir Peter Bonham, as a strap-line above a City page article (Page 21, yesterday) wrongly stated. In the same piece, the starling equivalent for \$7 billion was given as \$4.3 million; it should have been \$4.3 billion.

WE WRONGEDLY stated that Michael Berkeley is chairman of the board of the Royal Opera House in the Friday Review (Page 14, June 5). The chairman of the ROH is, in fact, Sir Colin Southgate. Mr Berkeley is a member of the main board, and chairs the Opera Advisory Board. Apologies to both.

THE FRENCH word "balade" (ballad) was used incorrectly in the headline on an

article in French on exploring the catacombs of Paris in our education section (Page 8) yesterday. The correct word is "balade", with one l, meaning a stroll.

THE BALLET *The Protecting Veil* was composed by John Tavener, not John Taverner, as we said in an article about Nina de Valois and the Royal Ballet in our Saturday section (Page 5, June 6).

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 5308 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surveys face mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 5897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Death Notices

BOYKOUR, John Marvin. Dear husband of Elaine, beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Died at The Laurels Nursing Home, Hastings, June 5th 1998, aged 74 years.

SHERRIFF, Judith Anne, aged 61 years, on 7th June 1998, with severity and peace. Wife of David, daughter of Giles, mother of Daniel, Deborah and Elaine and grand-daughter of Mrs. M. and Mr. J. Sherriff. Buried at Belmont Abbey, Hereford, on 18th June 1998, at 2.30pm. Family flowers only, but please any donations enclosed for Hereford Cathedral. The family home is 119 Woodlands, Hereford HR4 6LE.

80 To place your announcement Wednesday 0171 239 5308 or 0171 239 5309 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

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Select committee's energy review revives a political spectre

Labour's nuclear U-turn

Colin Weston
Industrial Correspondent

NUCLEAR power should not be written off, coal production must be safeguarded and gas-fired power stations ought to be allowed to flourish, according to an influential report on Britain's energy policy.

These are the conclusions of MPs on the Labour-dominated trade and industry select committee, which published its report yesterday.

The MPs' recommendations come as consumers, electricity generators and industry await confirmation of a Cabinet sub-committee's findings on energy policy, expected to address the future of the deep-mine coal industry and due to be published tomorrow.

But the recommendation that ministers should not rule out a future role for nuclear power is likely to prove the most controversial; the issue has divided the Labour party for decades.

Martin O'Neill, Labour MP for Oxford and the committee's chairman, said: "The question as to whether new nuclear build cannot and must not be ducked any longer."

He added: "We recommend that a formal presumption be made now, for the purposes of long-term planning, that new nuclear power stations may be required in the course of the next two decades."

The report says there is no "immediate case" for public money to be spent on building new nuclear power stations, but adds that "nothing should be said or done to rule out future construction of nuclear plants."

But it acknowledges, too, that "a major effort would be required to turn around public opinion."

The MPs' 72-page report, broadly welcomed by the power industry and criticised by its pro-nuclear lobby Friends of the Earth, criticises the Government for failing to develop a coherent energy policy, "especially in view of the uncertainty created in the coal industry."

It calls on ministers to take a long-term view on the best mix of coal, gas and nuclear fuels for future power generation, a view which "can



- No ducking question of need for new nuclear plant
- No reasons to resist the growing use of gas
- Lift the moratorium on building gas-fired generation
- Safeguard indigenous deep-mine coal production
- No taxpayer or electricity-consumer subsidy for coal
- Government needs coherent energy policy
- Ministers should decide best mix of nuclear, gas and coal
- Integration of environmental priorities with energy policy
- Specific targets for energy efficiency

henceforth inform and guide the proper exercise of ministerial powers."

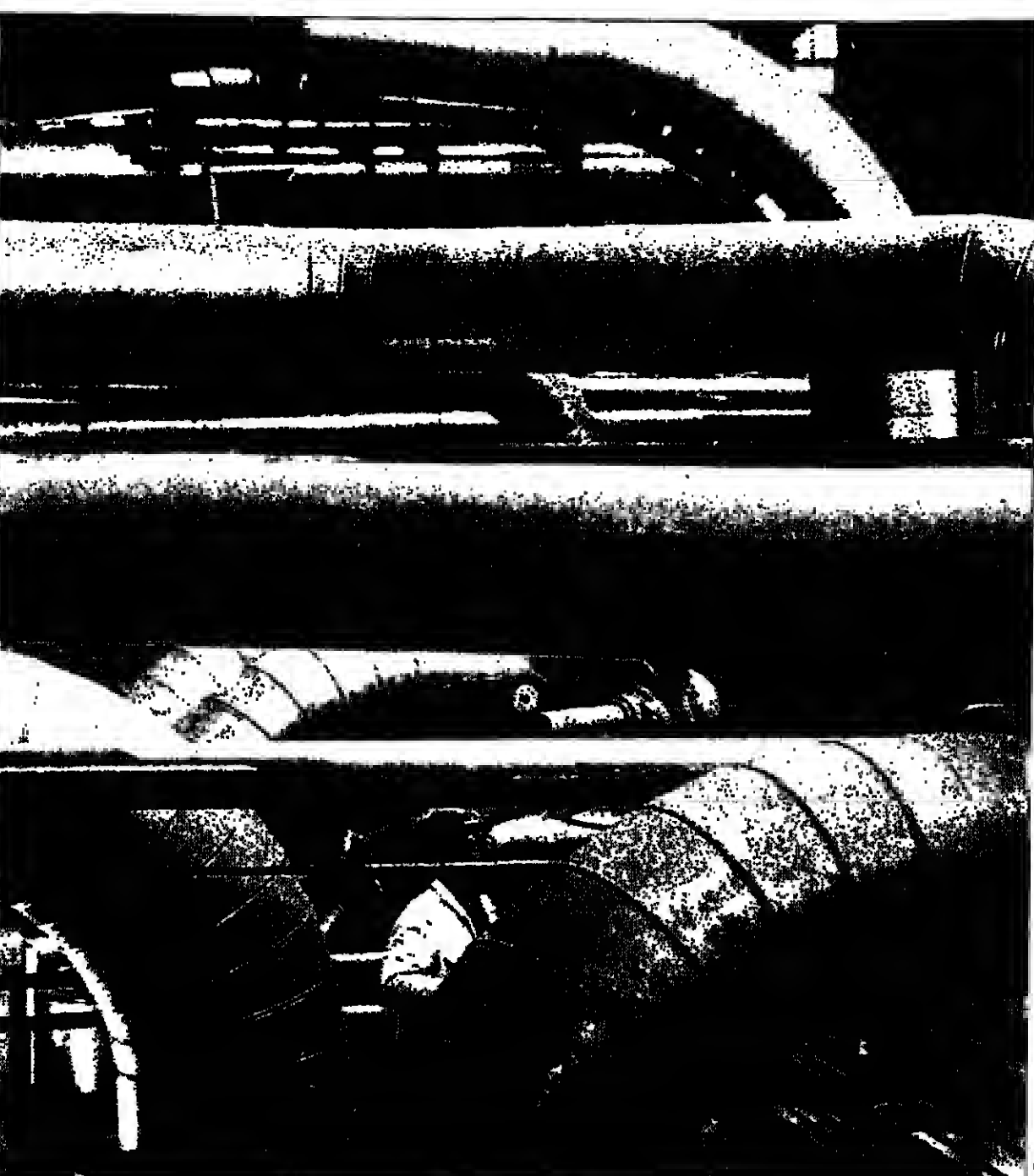
Mr O'Neill said it was the Government's job to square the circle of protecting the deep-mine coal industry while allowing gas-fired generation to flourish.

On coal, he said the need to retain an indigenous energy source and maintain a diversity of supply were grounds for safeguarding production. "In view of the danger that, once lost, the UK's deep-coal assets may be practically irrecoverable."

But the report specifically rules out taxpayers or electricity consumers subsidising the coal industry.

Mr O'Neill added that the impact on the market for British coal of the so-called dash for gas — the rapid increase in gas-fired power stations — should be redressed through reform of the wholesale electricity market, the "pool".

He acknowledged, however, that this could take months, while the need to expand the market for deep-mine coal was urgent because extended contracts with the big three



Sizewell legacy... A reopened nuclear power agenda is likely to prove as controversial as ever. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK MARTIN

generators — National Power, PowerGen and Eastern — expire at the end of this month.

He said, too, that the report concluded "there are no reasons on grounds of security of supply, or in terms of

confidence in long-term availability, to resist the growing use of gas... UK energy supply would still be considerably more diverse than for most of this century."

The report also criticises the government-imposed moratorium on planning permission for gas-fired stations. Mr O'Neill said: "Repeated deferral of decisions cannot itself be erected into a policy."

He warned that any suggestion that the UK used "bureaucratic obstructionism" or was becoming a more difficult place for people to do business, would damage attempts to attract inward investment.

Notebook

Turning blind eye to board excess



Alex Brummer

IT WAS only six days ago that the whole country was being punished by the Bank of England, with the tacit support of the Treasury, for daring to conclude wage settlements that had pushed average earnings up by 4.9 per cent. The pay deal at Marks & Spencer, where the company has adopted a sensible bonus scheme based on performance, was among those singled out for criticism.

If the authorities are genuinely concerned about pay settlements, however, they ought to begin in the boardroom. Nearly three years after Sir Richard Greenbury made a stab at cleaning up boardroom excess it is in full cry again. Yet, remarkably, nobody in the Government — with the exception of Chris Smith, Heritage Secretary at the time of the Camelot results a year ago — is challenging unacceptable practice.

Even the Tories, sensitive about their own reputation with the voters — particularly in relation to the utilities — were more aggressive on executive pay than Labour.

Take the Sainsbury annual report, just dispatched to shareholders. It shows that Sainsbury directors were paid bonuses totalling more than £2 million last year, for beating profit targets. This despite the fact that they failed to restore earnings per share to the level achieved in 1996. As a result, the total pay of the new chief executive, Dino Adriano, more than doubled to £728,000. The cost of running the 12-strong board soared from £4.2 million to £5.7 million.

Moreover, the chairman of the supermarket group's remuneration committee is Sir Clive Thompson, who is the new president of the Confederation of British Industry and a member of the Hampel committee on corporate governance which reported in 1997: "Someone who ought to know better. He explains in a note to the accounts that bonuses would be triggered if earnings per share growth was 2 per cent above the previous year, not exactly an exacting task."

EARNINGS at Sainsbury actually climbed by 11.3 per cent, which triggered the maximum bonus, clicking in at 10 per cent. Clearly, there was concern that this might be too easy to achieve, so the maximum hurdle has been raised to 15 per cent, although the 2 per cent starting point remains. It is not just Sainsbury that should be put under the microscope. At British Telecom, which did not have the best of years in 1997, Sir Peter Bonfield, the chief executive, saw his remuneration rise by 46 per cent last year to

£1 million, with the help of the bonus system. He has also accumulated future share options worth £1.5 million. In the global world of telecoms, where BT's erstwhile merger partners MCI might count their options in the tens of millions of dollars, this might seem reasonable, particularly as BT will eventually collect £4.3 billion for its MCI stake. But the point is a broader one. If the UK is serious about defeating inflation, and that is what the rise in Bank's repo rate to 7.5 per cent was about, then there needs to be some leadership from the highest levels. As the pay gap grows between the executive directors and those lower down the scale, so will the level of distrust, and eventually productivity and the whole economy will suffer.

Life line

FOR years the futures and options market Life has been boasting of its exponential growth. In 1982 when it all began, just 3,839 contracts a day were being traded. A decade later, the number had soared to 262,774 and in the first quarter of this year reached 915,367.

But, as Life waxed lyrical about what it could achieve through its formula of gifted amateur management and the value of open outcry trading, its competitors overseas — most notably the DTB in Frankfurt — opted for an electronic trading system and have been fighting back, recapturing the German government bond contract from London.

While the Germans have been making the ground, linking their electronic systems with the Matif in Paris and the Swiss market, Life members have been quarrelling among themselves. The big players, including the main US investment banks, want screen-based trading, and quickly — whereas the smaller firms which have thrived under open outcry and enjoy the current membership structure in which their voice is heard, have been going slow.

The moment of truth has come with the decision, backed by 97 per cent of members, to switch to parallel systems — screen and open outcry trading — by the second quarter of next year. But with the euro area becoming a reality on January 1 and the DTB now outstripping London in terms of contract volumes, there is a need for even greater urgency.

The DTB's latest wheeze is the launch of an eurobar contract — the euro inter-bank offer rate — as an alternative to Libor, which has been the benchmark for the existing euro markets since they came into existence nearly two decades ago. Not so long ago such a piece of *chutzpah* by the DTB would have been a cause for scorn in London. But given the success of the DTB in winning business from Life, the time which it has taken Life members to steel themselves for reform and for the volume of business likely to be written at euro related rates, London cannot afford to be complacent on this.

'Deceit' puts home-loan firms at risk

Teresa Hunter

THE Director-General of Fair Trading yesterday warned banks and building societies that excessive charges for early termination of mortgage agreements were against the law.

John Bridgeman told members of the Council of Mortgage Lenders that consumer credit licences would be at risk if lenders engaged in practices which were "deceitful, oppressive or otherwise unfair or improper, whether they were unlawful or not."

Mr Bridgeman's attack comes ahead of tomorrow's meeting of the Building Societies Association, where the remaining mutuals will decide whether these fines should be scrapped for most ordinary mortgages.

Redemption penalties were first introduced to stop borrowers pulling out of fixed-rate mortgages, where interest rates moved against them. However, the mortgage price war has led to a slashing of interest rates with home buyers able to take out loans for as little as 1 or 2 per cent for a year or two.

To turn these loss leaders into profit, institutions have increasingly imposed onerous redemption penalties with many borrowers signing up for cheap deals unaware that they are locked in well beyond the life of any discount, or must pay six months' interest to escape.

which attempted to charge borrower Hugh Murphy £75,000 to redeem a £41,000 loan. He said: "I have taken great comfort on the substantial legal evidence that this judgment has given the notion that the imposition of excessive redemption charges on those already in financial difficulties is patently an unfair contract term and oppressive business conduct."

Under the law on unfair contracts, borrowers must be given the opportunity of ending a loan penalty-free if there is a sudden increase in the interest rate. However, the lenders stop levying redemption penalties for all but fixed-rate loans, it could mean an end to the cashback and discount mortgages particularly popular with new borrowers.

Although his main concern is to protect vulnerable borrowers, Mr Bridgeman also stressed that an efficiently managed and regulated mortgage market was vital to the economy.

He told lenders: "The integrity of mortgage lending is an essential feature of a market-based economy in which both home ownership and the cost of that ownership are high. Mortgage lending affects whole industries such as home building and improvements, as well as a number of the professions."

Derivatives traders face redundancy as Liffe votes for electronic trading

Jim Treanor

MEMBERS of Liffe, London's colourful derivatives exchange, last night endorsed overwhelmingly plans to introduce electronic trading which could result in hundreds of redundancies.

In the face of criticism that it has been slow to face up to the need for change, Liffe — the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange — was forced to make the changes after it lost the bulk of the business in its flagship Bund futures contract to the DTB, its German rival, which already trades electronically.

After an extraordinary general meeting attended by 77 per cent of the market, the DTB accounting for nearly all the business in this important European contract.

Business in many Liffe contracts is still thriving, however, and last year was a record for the exchange. So Liffe does not intend to scrap



Liffe will be waving goodbye to hand signals like these, indicating 31 for gilts (which are priced in 32nds), a call option and 'strangle'.

trolled the international trade in Bunds (German government bonds). That position has now been reversed, with the DTB accounting for nearly all the business in this important European contract.

Business in many Liffe contracts is still thriving, however, and last year was a record for the exchange. So Liffe does not intend to scrap

floor trading overnight, preferring to offer electronic trading as an alternative in some of its contracts from the second quarter of next year.

Liffe traders do not expect the parallel systems to be needed for long, and cite the example of their counterparts in Paris, who were wiped out almost overnight when their exchange, the Matif, intro-

duced electronic trading earlier this year.

Firms have already begun laying off their floor trading teams and further redundancies in the 3,000-strong Liffe community are expected as the traders, recognised throughout the City by their colourful jackets, cease to be needed in their current numbers.

Electronic trades can be executed at the touch of a button, whereas the current system uses teams of floor traders to buy and sell futures and options contracts through hand signals devised to allow them to communicate above the noise on the Liffe floor.

They will now need to learn to use the new technology and adapt to a totally different office environment.

Liffe's chairman, Jack Wigglesworth, said last night: "This vote enables Liffe to regain the strategic initiative and to refocus as a profit-making organisation, serving the interests of our members."

Renault denies reports of VW tie up

Mark Milner and David Gow

VOLKSWAGEN'S ambitions to break into the world's truck market were underlined yesterday when the German car group was reported to be interested in a tie-up with France's Renault. Though Renault was quick to rebut the suggestion in Stern magazine, VW would only describe the report as "speculation."

Last night VW said that though the company was not in talks over a possible truck alliance, it was looking to break into the market. "There are now 18 [vol-

ume] car producers in the world. In the next 10 years that total will fall to between five and 10. We believe that only if you can offer the full range, from fun cars to trucks will you have a chance to survive."

The Government yesterday cleared the way for Volkswagen to complete its £470 million takeover of Rolls-Royce Motors next month by deciding not to refer it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. But VW could still face a protracted legal battle to use the Rolls brand name with the aero-engine maker Rolls-Royce plc, which backed its German rival, BMW, in the recent bidding war.

Doctor's team hits jackpot

Tony May

STAFF and directors of a small computer software company will share a £130 million bonanza following a takeover by the US Network Associates group for \$398 million.

About 500 staff of Dr Solomon's, which makes anti-virus programmes, own 18 per cent of the company and will share £70 million — an average £140,000 each.

Three directors, the chief executive Geoff Leary, finance director David Stephens and operations director Keith Perrett, will share £80 million two years after buying out the operation from the privately-owned S&S International company and

floating it on both American Nasdaq and the London Easdaq stock markets.

Company founder Alan Solomon will see his options valued at \$5 million. The payout is timely, as Network Associates warned that some rationalisation of the workforce would be needed if the full merger benefits were to be realised.

The deal is part of a rapid consolidation in the technology and computing industry, stimulated in part by demand for solutions to complex problems such as the millennium "time bomb".

Dr Solomon's top-selling programme claims to detect and identify more than 19,000 computer viruses. The takeover will open up important new markets to the company.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.66	Germany 2.8150	Malaysia 6.546	Singapore 2.74
Austria 19.24	Greece 478.14	Malta 0.82	South Africa 8.21
Belgium 33.20	Hong Kong 12.29	Netherlands 3.1676	Spain 238.15
Canada 2.307	India 68.24	New Zealand 3.14	Sweden 12.50
Cyprus 0.88	Ireland 1.1091	Norway 11.89	Switzerland 2.34
Denmark 16.81	Israel 5.97	Portugal 267.84	Turkey 405.350
Finland 5.65	Italy 2.00	Saudi Arabia 6.02	USA 1.5986
France 6.44			

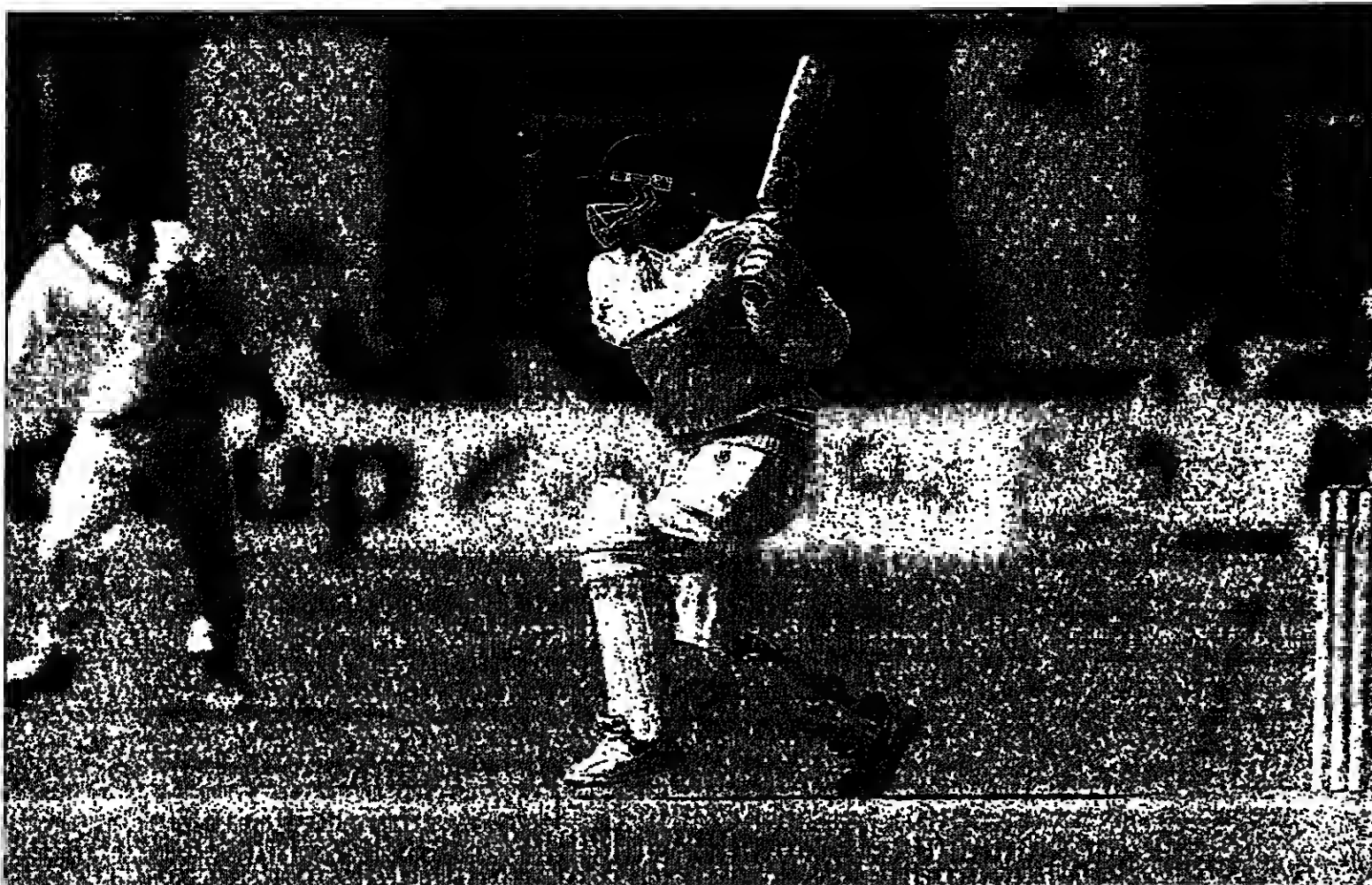
Sourced by Reuters (excluding rupee, shekel and mullak)

Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final Leicestershire v Surrey

Paul Weaver at Grace Road sees Chris Lewis help send his old team packing and win a place in his second successive final

Maddy mauls the masters

EVEN as the bowling of the Hollis brothers was being firmly struck in the direction of oblivion by Leicestershire's Darren Maddy here yesterday, Sky TV was screening a wretchedly timed feature on Adam's stunning captaincy and Ben's precocious all-round skills. The Surrey cap-



Driven man... Darren Maddy lashes out on his way to the Gold Award and an unbeaten 120 at Grace Road yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH BY GRAHAM CHADWICK

LEICESTERSHIRE

D L Maddy not out	120
J J Suckfield b Bicknell	6
B F Smith b Stewart b Seddon	2
P V Simmons b B C Hollis	40
R C Lewis not out	17
C G Lewis not out	0
Extras (2, 1b, 4, w, nb, 14)	20
Total (for 4, 50 overs)	211

SURREY

A D Brown run out	3
A J Stewart c Simmons b Lewis	21
B C Hollis c Lewis b Ormond	2
R J Thorpe c Nixon b Lewis	2
M A Butcher not out	40
M J Hollis c Lewis b Ormond	41
J J Hassell c Nixon b Simmons	38
M P Bicknell not out	2
Seddon	1
J E Benjamin not out	1
Extras (15, 1b, w, nb)	20
Total (for 6, 50 overs)	291

Fall of wickets 17, 128, 205, 207, 274, 288

Best bowlers D L Maddy 10-1-45-2; Ormond 10-0-55-1; Lewis 10-1-40-4; Wells 6-0-32-0; Simmons 9-0-29-1; Williamson 5-0-34-0

Dismissed D J Cornhill and J H Hampshire, Leicestershire were by 20 runs.

tain, who appears to have lost all confidence in his bowling, went for 76 in his eight overs and his younger brother's 10 cost 60 as Surrey lost by 20 runs. It was their first defeat in the competition in 14 matches.

It was Leicestershire's first B&H win over Surrey in five attempts and the final will be the second in succession for Chris Lewis, their acting captain, who made it with Surrey last season after they crushed Leicestershire by 130 runs in a semi-final at The Oval.

This was an awful day for Surrey because they also lost the services of a player who has been pivotal in their impressive climb to the summit of the championship table. The leg-spinner Ian Salisbury, who has also come into consideration for the England team this season, came on to bowl the 19th over with Leicestershire 68 for one. His

spell lasted a single ball; he slipped, tore a groin muscle and will not feature in Surrey's immediate future. "It just popped," he said afterwards. "I was in agony. I will be out for three or four weeks; it might be sooner than that but it is feeling so sore at the moment that I doubt it."

Another England prospect had a more memorable match. Maddy won his fifth Gold Award in seven games, lifting his tally in this competition this season to 624 runs at an average of 156. He followed scores of 136 not out, 3, 32, 89, 151 and 93 not out with an unbeaten 120 from only 138 deliveries. He was not always at his best. Ben Smith looked the more

fluent in a second-wicket stand of 172 in 31 overs and then both Phil Simmons and, briefly, even Paul Nixon outscored him. But Maddy batted through the innings, striking 11 fours and a hooked six over longleg off Martin Bicknell. When Surrey won the toss and chose to field they soon had success. Bicknell had Ian Sutcliffe

lbw in the sixth over with only 17 on the board. But then Maddy and Smith tugged the game away from Surrey's grasp with an enterprising partnership that also had its moments of good fortune. Maddy, on 53 and 104, was twice "dismissed" by no-balls, the second going for four after striking his stumps. With wickets in hand Leicestershire overcame the squalls and the later Surrey bowling to score 100 runs from their last 10 overs and total 311.

Surrey's high-voltage batting suffered a rare power failure. Alistair Brown was run out in the second over — by Maddy — and then Lewis brought himself on for a crucial spell. He had figures of three for seven in his first four overs, dismissing Alec Stewart and, in the 16th over, both Graham Thorpe, who was caught behind, and Mark Butcher, who trod on his wicket.

Then, suddenly, that Sky programme did not look so ridiculous after all. Ben Hollis, who on the television replay was clearly caught behind off Alan Mullally when he had made only eight, went on to score 63. Even more remarkably, Adam then hit 76 off 55 balls to lift his sagging dressing-room with thoughts of victory. The emotional Lewis sank to his knees at the end.

McRae rallies to win as rivals fall by the wayside

David Williams in Delphi

ONE by one Colin McRae's adversaries had been knocked out of the Acropolis Rally by mechanical problems and, just when it seemed victory would still elude him, the leader Didier Auriol was hobbled by electrical trouble and the Scot was home.

The French Toyota driver lost less than 40 seconds fixing a fuse on the penultimate special stage but was enough to hand the rally to McRae, who had been poised in his Subaru 16 seconds behind.

The rocky, abrasive mountain tracks of Greece can rip a set of off-road tyres to shreds in 25 miles of hard driving and McRae did well both to keep up the pressure and make his tyres last. "We had a good, clean rally," he said. "We haven't made any mistakes."

His third win of the season, his 15th at world championship level, completed a remarkable week for the family. His brother Alister won the Scottish Rally last weekend, and their father Jim won the separate Scottish Rally For Historic Cars.

McRae was the only finisher in the Acropolis top six to survive unscathed. Juha Kankkunen lost half a minute after wrecking his Ford's tyre, while Carlos Salazar broke his Toyota's power steering and Piero Liatti, McRae's team-mate, left the road for 10 minutes and had to dig the car out of a ditch with the jack.

Richard Burns was the chief casualty, however. He had climbed from fifth to fourth and was closing on Kankkunen until he clipped a rock and tore off his Mitsubishi's rear suspension.

Why the dollar is dampening the spirit of the samba



Paul Weaver

IT STARTS today, in case you have been detained in some nether constellation, the biggest sporting knees-up that has ever been staged, and perhaps it was not such a good idea to watch Panorama the other night.

Panorama has never been good for a giggle. It has been bringing us bleak news since Richard Dimbleby squeezed his corpulent frame into the tiny screen that resembled a snowstorm paperweight all those years ago, fixing us with a serious eye and a voice so grave he might have understudied Orson Welles to read War of the Worlds. But Monday's well-researched broadcast was particularly depressing.

The programme conveyed the unambiguous impression that the world's most popular game is little better than a global swindle. It did not ignore the fact that the tournament has become a corporate junket, that tickets are like gold dust, that many have found their way on to the black market via the official associations and others have gone on luxury tours and hospitality deals. It did not concentrate on these matters because we knew as much anyway.

Instead the programme makers went to Brazil, football's spiritual home, the only country to have taken part in every tournament, winning it a record four times, the land of Pele, Zico, Rivelino and Garrincha, of the mesmerising yellow-shirt-and-blue-shorts combo. And it painted a grim picture of a game riddled with corruption and greed.

It showed the war between Pele, the finest player we have seen in a World Cup final, and his fellow countryman Joao Havelange, for more than a quarter of a century until Monday the autocratic president of Fifa and the most powerful voice in the game.

Most worrying of all, perhaps, it showed the growing power and demands of the sponsor. Nike is not one of the official 12 World Cup sponsors but funds the Brazilian national team for a rumoured \$200 million (£123 million) over 10 years, covering such areas as kit and facilities, plus another \$30 million a year in cash.

For this little outlay it is

claimed that the men from Nike have a say in where Brazil play, choosing tournaments and matches in parts of the world which offer the best marketing opportunities, and that they influence the selection of individual players with Nike contracts and ask others to break training schedules to attend official functions.

When Ricardo Teixeira, the president of the Brazil FA and the former son-in-law of Havelange, was asked about the contract with Nike he suddenly looked nervous, put his hands up and said, "Bye, bye, no more questions," and hurried away.

Pele shook his head and talked about everyone being concerned too much by business and about the diminishing importance of the real supporters.

A distressed Tootsie added, "The power Nike has over the Brazil team is damaging the team technically. The World Cup has already been won by the multinationals and all the emotion and excitement is being taken away."

Another former Brazil World Cup player, Casagrande, said: "A lot of people are using football here for political and criminal purposes. It is widely used for money laundering. The football itself is of minor importance for many of the directors."

Well, we all realise the power of market forces, even those of us who do not consider money the most important thing in the world (except when credit cards are mislaid, of course). But there is a little too much smugness in the domestic game.

We jab a jingoistic finger over the Channel and mutter that, well, what would one expect from the French. Or the Brazilians, for that matter. In South America, we suggest, scandalously, one country is as corrupt as another.

THE game in Britain would never fall so low. And yet for some reason there is the quietest growing fear that the game could implode here, that the next Panorama documentary on football could be made more cheaply at home.

In the pub you can never be sure whether you are drinking with a fan wearing a replica shirt or a member of England's World Cup squad. How many more managers taking bungs will we read about, or season-ticket prices rocketing up, or directors going on holiday and rubbishing their supporters, or over-paid players not giving a damn, before there will be an angry disaffection with a game that has never enjoyed such popularity in these islands.

A defeat at the hands of Tunisia on Monday would not help either.



Cause for celebration... Ashley Cowan of Essex enjoys trapping Yorkshire's Michael Vaughan leg-before for a duck

GRAHAM PRENTIS

Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final: Yorkshire v Essex

Hussain leads from the front

David Hopps at Headingley

NASSER HUSSAIN'S driving ambition to become captain of England might have been thwarted, for the time being at least, but Essex were last night happily acclaiming his inspirational touch as he fashioned them a place in the B&H Cup final.

Unflappable with the bat and a meticulous organiser in the field, Hussain's command was as absolute as Essex abruptly halted talk of the umpteenth Yorkshire revival since the war (the Boycott war, that is) with a comprehensive victory by 26 runs.

Hussain's recent tribulations with England would have tested the most impetuous individual. Two further curiosities in the first Test at Edgbaston, in the shape of a first-innings shooter and a bad leg-before decision, extended his catalogue of unlucky dismissals to six in nine Test innings. All that and the Australian un-

pire Darryl Hair to come... It all must have made it a doubly gratifying experience for Hussain to line-up an Essex fielding side who had just made 256 for seven in testing conditions, especially when it was his own contribution, a cultured 78 from 122 balls, which had made such a total possible.

Even an accidental collision with Richard Blakey, which caused him to stay down for an eight-count, did not unsettle him for long. He was the only batsman to drive with conviction on a grey and wind-swept day which limited the crowd to around 4,000.

This was Yorkshire's fourth semi-final defeat in as many years and it must rank as their most demoralising. Darren Gough, their injured fast bowler, had sunnily suggested that his absence might spur his team-mates on.

Instead, it removed the bowler most likely to shake Yorkshire out of their lethargy. Chris Silverwood, after removing both openers in his first three overs, did not com-

plete his spell; neither did Craig White, who faces a scan on a troublesome back injury. What Hussain did not complete, as Ryan Sidebottom had him leg before to an innings, was capably rounded off by Danny Law and Ashley Cowan. Yorkshire must have had hopes of stifling the lower-order; they fell into confusion in the face of an unbroken eighth-wicket stand of 56 in 37 balls.

"Try opening your eyes, Danny," Essex's coach Keith Fletcher had caustically advised as Law went out to bat. Law opened them to marvellous effect, and another slice of Fletcher mystique was born.

Yorkshire were never in contention. From the disorder of 29 for three — Cowan had Michael Vaughan leg-before second ball, Mark Flint hurried out White and David Byes — the demands were too great and Darren Lehmann, on 40, top-edged Peter Such to the wicketkeeper.

The strange innings was played by Anthony McGrath, who retreats to the middle-

order in the one-day game and whose confidence was so low that he batted Yorkshire further out of contention with 39 in 77 balls. He has never been the same since he was attacked by a journalist's dog last month while standing in the slips at The Parks.

Hussain has deputised as Essex captain since Paul Prichard broke down with shin splints on the opening day of the season, although Prichard hopes to resume in time for Essex's third final in as many seasons.

"It has been good for me," Hussain said. "We have had a tiring England schedule and the captaincy has helped to focus my mind on my country. That Paul might be back in time for the final is certainly not a problem as far as the captaincy is concerned. It's just unfortunate that somebody might have to miss out."

The three-day match between Sussex and the South Africans begins on Friday at Arundel and not at Hove, as we reported in yesterday's sports pages.

Scoreboard

ESSEX

M P Vaughan lbw b Silverwood	0
S G Law c Parker b Silverwood	10
N Hussain lbw b Sidebottom	78
R J Hastings c Hamilton b Huxford	19
A J Grayson c McGrath b White	36
S P Law not out	17
A H Cowan not out	15
Extras (26, 1b, w, nb)	30
Total (for 7, 50 overs)	256

Fall of wickets 0, 17, 33, 110, 180, 189, 202

Best bowlers M C Flint, P M Such, Silverwood 7-0-43-2; Huxford 7-0-41-1; Sidebottom 10-0-42-2; Vaughan 10-0-4

YORKSHIRE

M P Vaughan lbw b Cowan	0
C White c Flint b Flint	7
D Byes c Flint b Flint	1
S G Lawman c Flint b Such	40
B Parker lbw b Grayson	36
M A Hamilton b S G Law	20
G W Silverwood run out	0
P J Sidebottom not out	4
R J Hastings not out	10
Extras (11, 1b, w, nb)	20
Total (42, 40 overs)	165

Fall of wickets 0, 16, 29, 89, 112, 118, 135, 152, 159

Best bowlers S G Law 8-0-30-1; Flint 6-0-22-2; Flint 7-0-21-2; Such 10-1-24-1; Grayson 8-0-28-3; S G Law 3-0-16-2

Dismissed S G Law and P M Such, Essex were by 25 runs.

صوتنا من الامم

The Guardian

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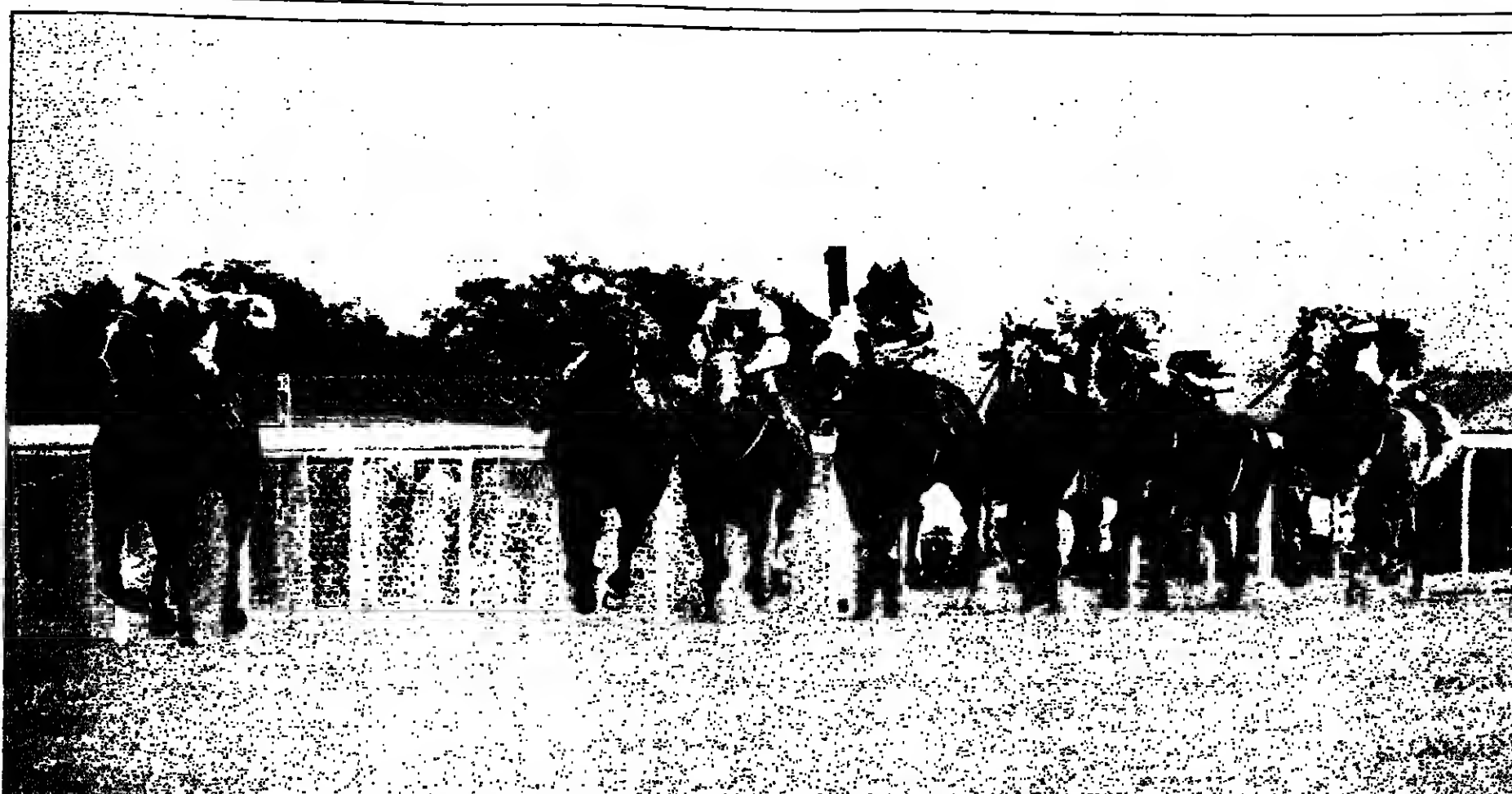
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Leader of the pack... Gary Hind sends Delta Soleil clear to win the Blandford Handicap over six furlongs at Salisbury yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: JULIAN HERBERT/SPORT

Independent review savages BHB plan

Crackdown Flock

THE financial plan produced by the British Horseracing Board in January, which prompted the resignation of Lord Wakeham and drew widespread criticism from among the sport's realists, was dealt a near-fatal blow by the publication yesterday of an independent assessment by the consultants Coopers & Lybrand.

The report was commissioned by the Betting Office Licences Association, but Robert Young, the senior member of the consultants

team, denied that the critique was biased. "We didn't set out to attack the BHB or the racehorse-owning fraternity," he said. "We have provided an independent commentary on the plan and if we had been asked by the BHB to do so, the result would have been the same."

The BHB plan suggested that an extra £105 million a year was required to solve the "crisis" within racing. Of that, £80 million would be sought from betting turnover, and the remaining £25 million generated by self-help.

Coopers & Lybrand's team could find no evidence of a sport in crisis; prize money

rose by 60 per cent in real terms between 1988 and 1996, while the costs of owning and keeping a racehorse remained static, and since 1994 a VAT concession had returned a further £25 million to owners. Yet the number of horses in training had declined slightly.

The BHB argued that a significant increase in prize money would bring about substantial increases in the number of owners, racehorses, races, field sizes, attendances, betting turnover and profitability.

"The BHB's arguments do not withstand close analysis... proposals to expand both racing and betting

by an increase in taxation fly to the face of reason," the report states. The financial plan also argues that racing would benefit from an extra marketing spend of £14 million annually, which would produce 550 new owners, a similar number of additional horses, income of £55 million, tax revenues of £12.1 million and employment for 2,250.

With a telling simplicity the report states: "Since £14 million is well within the £25 million which the BHB claim the industry can raise itself, it is worth asking why they do not simply get on with it."

Bookmakers will be expecting a record turnover at the Royal Ascot next week, where the ground is officially good. The financial plan also argues that racing would benefit from an extra marketing spend of £14 million annually, which would produce 550 new owners, a similar number of additional horses, income of £55 million, tax revenues of £12.1 million and employment for 2,250.

Saeed bin Suroor confirmed that Devlin will contest the Prince of Wales's Stakes at the Royal meeting on Tuesday. Godolphin has a host of entries, but Embassy will miss the Coronation Stakes. "She hasn't been training so well and needs more time," the trainer said.

Pascal Bary announced that the French Derby winner

Dream Well will run in the Irish Derby at The Curragh, where he will meet the Epsom hero, High-Rise. Corn have introduced match betting between High-Rise and City Honours, who fought out a photo finish on Saturday. They bet 4-6 that High-Rise will confirm his superiority over the Godolphin runner.

More interesting is their offer of 100-1 that High-Rise will repeat Saturday's victory over City Honours by the identical distance of a head.

Adrian Maguire has decided not to appeal against the Newton Abbot stewards' last Saturday.

Kempton evening programme

TIME	FROM	TO	FORM
6.30	Anglo-American	Graceland	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-12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France 98 The countdown to kick-off

Stellar talents in global space race

Richard Williams in Paris on how outstanding individuals can still leave a beautiful human imprint on an increasingly scientific game

AFTER the bold *in vitro* experiment of USA 94, successful in social and commercial terms but deficient in authentic footballing magic, the World Cup returns to the womb tomorrow night, to the city in which the tournament was conceived. For the Rose Bowl and the Silverdome, read the Stade de France and the Velodrome. In France the grass is real, the crowds are organically grown and, for better or worse, the game and its rituals will not represent an alien invasion to those who live in the streets around the stadiums. But football has moved on, and perhaps we are no longer quite so sure what we want from it.

To the British fan, this is the first World Cup of the new age. Over the past four years football has captured the public's imagination to an extent unimaginable in the dark days of the Eighties, when to admit an interest in the game was to court social death. No one after all would have expected to find the members of Bananarama drinking in the players' lounge at Old Trafford, or the Smiths providing an England team song. Now Posh Spice — a new Diana, albeit with a temporary pass, as she is cheering on her consort, in his Paul Smith suit.

The old male-dominated working-class image has gone for good, along with the society of which it was a reflection. And so, perhaps, has the particular passion that it bred. The crowds now have more money to spend and are more familiar with the pronunciation of foreign names; yet it seems likely that they know less about football itself and are more fickle in their affections.

In principle the World Cup, exotic but time-limited, is an event tailor-made for the tastes and attention span of the new audience. Still, those who have followed football for more than five minutes will be scanning the 32 squads in the hope that the next month gives us, at the very least, a handful of moments to add to the list of imperishable memories.

And why shouldn't it? The general raising of technical and tactical standards around the world means that there are more potential winners among the final 32 nations than ever before. This may suggest that some matches — perhaps even more than usual — will turn out to be cautious affairs between teams whose immediate priority is not to lose, but among the 704 registered players are bound to be one or two, their identities perhaps as yet unknown even to the talent scouts of Italy and Spain, whose names will be in-

scribed in the collective memory by the middle of next month. The arrival of a teenage genius in the mould of the 1958-vintage Pele might be too much to expect. But surely there will be someone whose deeds will rank with those of Pak Doo Ik, scorer of the North Korean goal that knocked out Italy at Ayresome Park in 1966, or Paolo Rossi, whose sudden harvest of goals in the knock-out stages of 1982 proved decisive for the Azzurri.

If no such figures emerge, two factors will be to blame.

And, with a further irony,

Argentina, with a squad of strong and subtle footballers, may be a better bet. Who, of the favourites, would you fancy to beat them? Many of that squad, however, were in the team defeated so thrillingly by Nigeria in the 1996 Olympic final. A few days earlier, in the semi-final, Nigeria had overcome a Brazil team containing several of the names to be found on today's team sheet — including Ronaldo. In both matches the African team came from behind to win at the last gasp with a wonderful demonstration of skill, spirit and discipline.

Two of the players most responsible for capturing that gold medal, Nwankwo Kanu and Celestine Babayaro, have been hobbled by illness or injury in the intervening seasons but, if they can recapture their Olympic form in France, their team will stand an excellent chance of becoming the first African nation to win the World Cup — a desirable outcome, no matter how much encouragement it might seem to give to Nigeria's vile military government, although it remains to be seen what effect, if any, the death on Monday of General Sani Abacha will have on the team's morale.

If Nigeria cannot manage it, perhaps there will still be a first-time winner — Spain, notably, with the sublime gifts of Raul and Fernando Morientes, the Real Madrid pair, added to the ability of their coach Javier Clemente to erect a solid defence; or France, despite Aimé Jacquet's ridiculous omission of Nicolas Anelka in favour of a bunch of second-rate strikers; or Holland, if they can heal the rifts that cost them their self-respect in Euro 96; or even Yugoslavia, who still bear the faint watermark of the great Red Star Belgrade side sundered by the fall of communism.

The heart, then, goes with Nigeria, and the head with Argentina. But the mortgage, as ever, is on Bert Vogts' guarded, nagging Germans, whose victory would be unlikely to do much for the advancement of football in terms of art or popularity. At this stage the game must be said about the other former European winners, Italy and England, both of whom seem likely to expect teamwork to compensate for a dearth of genuine brilliance.

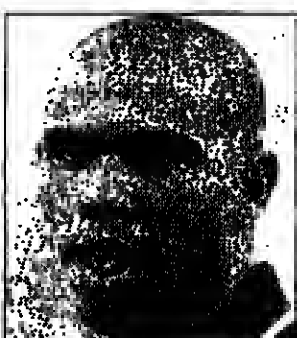
But hours away from the opening match of a World Cup, with players such as Salas, Del Piero, Denilson, Thuram and Suker to savour in the coming month, with the twilight of Hagi, Matthäus and Savicevic to balance against the prospective dawning of McCarthy, Owen and Joseph Desiré Job, with tactical schemes to compare and moments of wonder to replay, cynicism can look after itself. Plenty of time for that, no doubt.



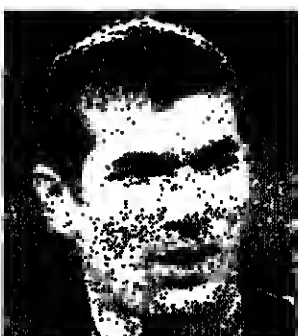
Stiletto sharp... Paolo Rossi's sudden cutting edge for Italy in the 1982 finals is an imperishable World Cup memory



Del Piero... striking hope



Ronaldo... unique



Zidane... playmaker



Raul... sublime gifts

The first is the increasing caution of the coaches. Their only responsibility, after all, is to take their teams as far as possible, by whatever means. No one pays them according to the entertainment they provide. It was impossible to watch Carlos Alberto Parreira during the final stages of the 1994 tournament and not feel a certain sympathy for his pragmatic approach, so infuriating to the 150 million fantasy coaches back home — until, of course, he gave them their precious trophy.

The second factor is the changing nature of the game, in which increased fitness is combining with tactical sophistication to stifle the last vestiges of the fulgent mid-field artistry incarnated by the likes of Gerson, Rivera and Van Hanegem. There is neither time nor space for such playmakers in the modern game, and no amount of virtuosity can create the pl-

the more we worship individuals — Ronaldo, Del Piero, Zidane, Ortega — the harder it becomes — thanks to the reduction in time and space on the pitch — for them to display the full range of their individuality. This will be a familiar story to Italians, accustomed to revering tough, phlegmatic strikers able to convert the one or two chances coming their way in each game, but is a comparatively recent addition to the Brazilian philosophy.

Roberto Carlos unhappy with new role as the straight man

GOOD NEWS for Jim Leighton and Scotland: Brazil's free-kick expert Roberto Carlos fears the official World Cup ball will take the banana out of his banana shots, writes Jon Brodkin.

"I've been practising but this ball doesn't swerve as much," the Real Madrid wing-back complained this week. "It's just going to have to hit it straight."

Things could be worse. The so-called Tricolore is designed to be quicker and more accurate than any other football, ensuring plenty of action for Leighton in today's France 98 opener. No wonder Andy Gorm took an early cut.

The ball, developed by Adidas over 2½ years, is a response to FIFA's demands the game be made more exciting. Its pace is generated by a lining of millions of gas-filled bubbles which absorb less energy than a normal football.

The ball in Gaul

Old vs **New**

- Old:** Up to 45g (lightness), tested by placing the ball in a tank of water 2cm deep and rolling it 250 times.
- New:** Up to 200g, Water absorption.
- Old:** The 32 panels enable the ball to be as round as possible without the flight being affected.
- New:** Impact transmitted into forward motion and temporary deformation of ball. Micro-bubbles compressed by impact. "Energy return" transmits compressed air forward motion. Explosive energy returns ball to original shape, predictable and accurate flight path.

How the new ball works

Impact → Micro-bubbles compressed by impact → "Energy return" transmits compressed air forward motion → Explosive energy returns ball to original shape, predictable and accurate flight path.

What they say...

"One of the best features of the Tricolore is that it absorbs less water than a lot of other balls. Its weight will remain virtually the same even if the game is played under a waterfall."

Hans-Peter Nurnberg, technical engineer in charge of the ball's development

"The Tricolore is different to any other ball I've ever used. It's faster and it's sharper. I think in World Cup 98 it's going to be harder for keepers to save this ball."

David Beckham of England, Adidas boot wearer

"Because the ball is that bit faster, there will be less reaction time for goalkeepers. It comes to the end of a game and goalkeepers are tired, that could show."

Gunter Pfeu, Adidas product manager for soccer hardware

French play it cool at home with a shrug for the Jacquet potatoes

Jon Henley in Paris finds fans preferring the small screen for want of Gallic flair

THE buses are flying the flags of 32 nations, the planes — most, unfortunately, still grounded — are painted with giant players, and the famous Obelisk in the Place de la Concorde has been turned into a 45-foot replica of the World Cup.

It is a brave effort. But on the day of kick-off is France in the grip of football fever? Hardly. The way it looks now, the World Cup final has rather less chance of gripping the nation than the two-minute compilation tape of assorted female tennis players that French television always airs during the Open at Roland Garros.

The sad fact is that football fails to stir Gallic passions. Or rather, the French can get excited about it but on one condition: their team must play *à la française*, which is

to say with style and imagination. Sadly, the coach Aimé Jacquet's selections are not currently doing so, and few people have much hope that they will.

The French can get excited about it on one condition: their team play with imagination

For a nation that demands Gallic flair from its sportsmen, a dull showing from the national side is enough to turn people off an entire sport. Between 1958, when France reached the semi-finals of the World Cup and Juste Fontaine scored his still unequalled 13 goals in a tournament, and the sparkling French sides of 1982 and 1986, football in France went into a

dive from which it is only now recovering. Only in the early 1990s did club attendance figures again equal those of the 1950s.

"We're horribly fickle," admits Marcel Timothée, a computer programmer. "It's true, we're not really a football-loving nation, we're not supporters like in England or Italy."

Even with the more recent success of a handful of French teams on the European stage, supporters have not returned to the stadiums so much as planted themselves in front of the television. Football is France's most popular living-room sport by a long way, but that is about as far as it goes. In towns and villages

around the country mayors are struggling to come up with ingenious ways of informing their populations that there is a World Cup going on. The small southern town of Albi, where the Romanian team are staying, this weekend unveiled the world's biggest football — more than three metres in diameter — in an attempt to ignite World Cup fever.

Parked in a central square full of football-related exhibits, it aroused little interest. "I don't know what's going to happen," said Olivier Brault, deputy mayor in charge of sports. "I'm a little worried. In fact, that the whole thing could just flop."

The word on Paris streets confirms Brault's fears. Marc Brière, a shirt salesman, may have summed up the mood best. "I'll be watching on telly, it will be hard to escape," he said. "But it's a bit of a fuss about nothing. The team is boring. What's in it for us?"

More affordable than a Brazilian striker

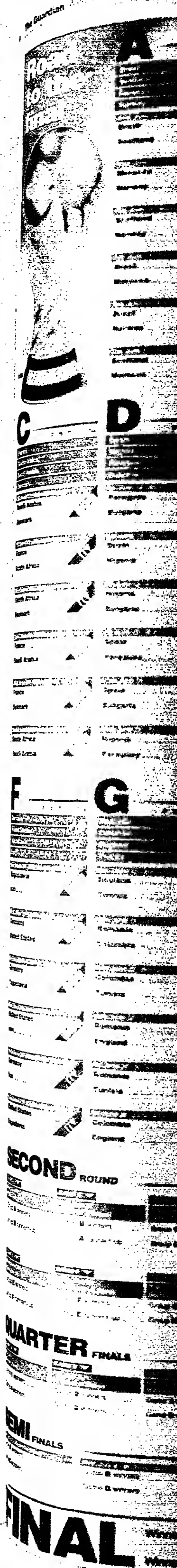
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Road to the final



A	P	W	D	L	Pts
Brazil					
Scotland					
Morocco					
Norway					
Wed. June 10 - St Denis (4.30pm)					
Brazil					
Scotland					

B	P	W	D	L	Pts
Italy					
Chile					
Cameroon					
Austria					
Wed. June 11 - Bordeaux (4.30pm)					
Italy					
Chile					

C	P	W	D	L	Pts
France					
South Africa					
Denmark					
Saudi Arabia					
Fri. June 12 - St Denis (4.30pm)					
France					
South Africa					

D	P	W	D	L	Pts
Spain					
Nigeria					
Paraguay					
Bulgaria					
Fri. June 12 - Montpellier (4.30pm)					
Spain					
Nigeria					

E	P	W	D	L	Pts
Holland					
Belgium					
South Korea					
Mexico					
Sat. June 13 - Lyon (4.30pm)					
Holland					
Belgium					

F	P	W	D	L	Pts
Germany					
United States					
Yugoslavia					
Iran					
Sun. June 14 - St Denis (4.30pm)					
Germany					
United States					

G	P	W	D	L	Pts
Romania					
Colombia					
England					
Tunisia					
Mon. June 15 - Marseille (4.30pm)					
Romania					
Colombia					

H	P	W	D	L	Pts
Argentina					
Japan					
Croatia					
Costa Rica					
Sun. June 14 - Toulouse (4.30pm)					
Argentina					
Japan					

I	P	W	D	L	Pts
Italy					
Chile					
Cameroon					
Austria					
Sat. June 13 - St Denis (4.30pm)					
Italy					
Chile					

J	P	W	D	L	Pts
France					
South Africa					
Denmark					
Saudi Arabia					
Fri. June 12 - St Denis (4.30pm)					
France					
South Africa					

K	P	W	D	L	Pts
Spain					
Nigeria					
Paraguay					
Bulgaria					
Fri. June 12 - Montpellier (4.30pm)					
Spain					
Nigeria					

L	P	W	D	L	Pts
Holland					
Belgium					
South Korea					
Mexico					
Sat. June 13 - Lyon (4.30pm)					
Holland					
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Sun. June 14 - Toulouse (4.30pm)					
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France					
South Africa					
Denmark					
Saudi Arabia					
Fri. June 12 - St Denis (4.30pm)					
France					
South Africa					

France 98 The countdown to kick-off

Group A: Brazil v Scotland

Scots go boldly into the fray

Craig Brown plans to attack Brazil. Patrick Glenn in Paris reports

SCOTLAND will have an attacking look, for a side regarded as easy victims, when they open the World Cup against Brazil at the Stade de France this afternoon.

Their manager, Craig Brown, will field three forwards in a deliberate attempt to unsettle the world champions' defence.

Darren Jackson, the Celtic striker, will effectively play on the right side of midfield, with a brief to exploit the space expected to open behind Roberto Carlos whenever the Brazilian left-back surges forward.

When Brazil have possession, Jackson will slot back into midfield, allowing the Scots to revert to their normal 3-5-2 formation.

"It's a kind of 3-4-2 line-up," said Brown, with characteristic humour. "It's designed to make a positive and offensive, because I think we have to show some of these qualities against Brazil if we are to secure the kind of result we are looking for."

"We had to decide whether to play Billy McKinlay or Darren Jackson in that mid-field slot and Darren got the call. Jackson is more energetic and mobile, and that brings the fluidity needed to work this system."

"The other part is that it allows us to play Craig Burley at right wing-back. We are confident he will cope with Roberto Carlos when the Brazilian changes. Jackson will be there to help when he needs it."

Brown's emphasis on aggression will surprise many who believed they would try to survive the expected onslaught by unrelenting defence.

Far from retreating into a corner, however, Brown made it clear that he believes the Scots' best chance of avoiding defeat is to try to exploit the Brazilians' weaknesses.

There is confidence among the cup holders' followers about their tendency to lose concentration in defence, an eccentricity exposed in warm-up games.

There is clear evidence, too, that Brown and his players have been concentrating on how they will play, rather than concentrating on how they will stop the Brazilians.

"No matter the opposition," said Brown, "there are times in every match when you will have a period of conceding. It is during that period that you really have to score."

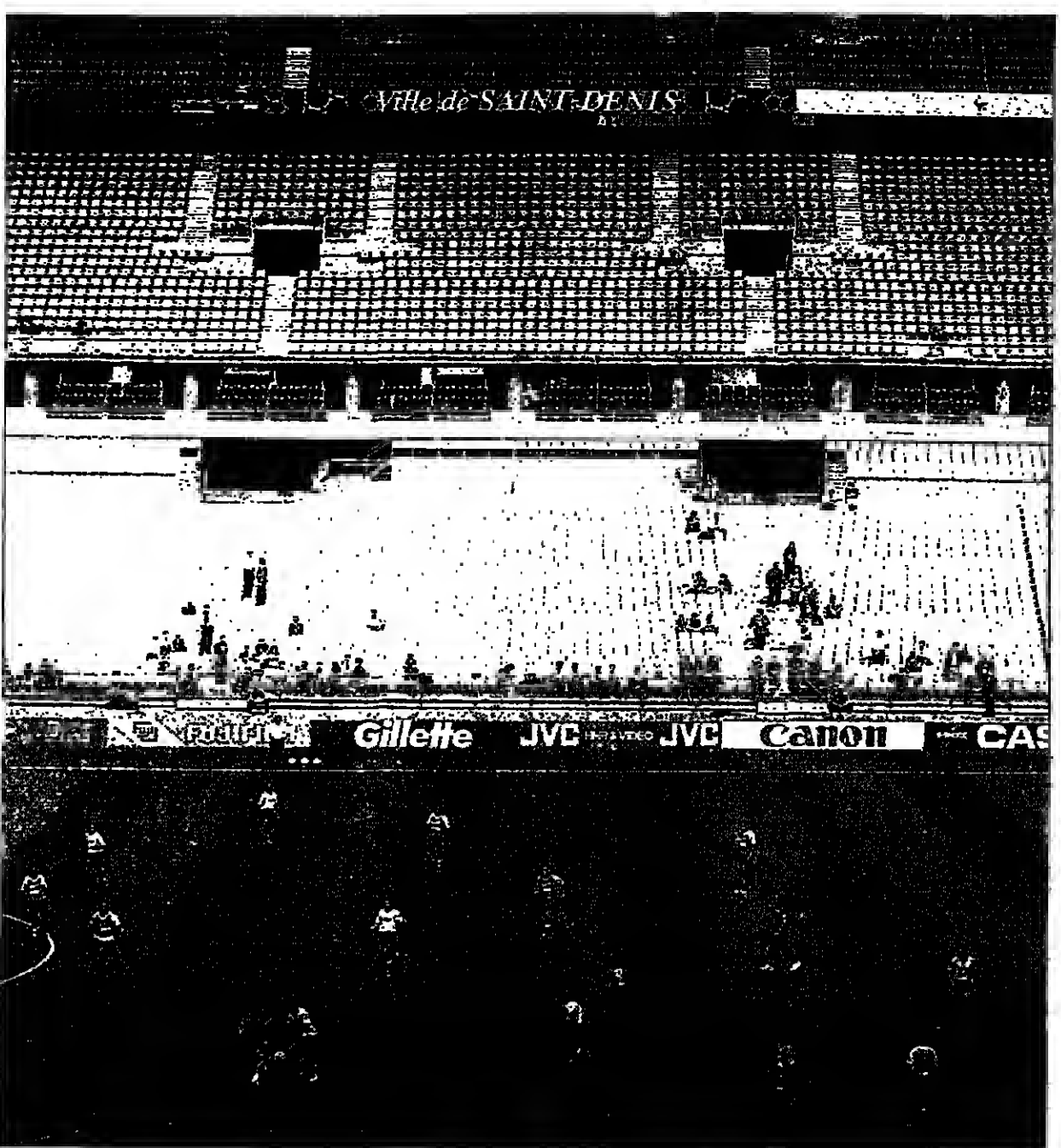
"The reason we will play the formation is that it will maximise our chances of taking advantage of that spell of conceding. The other point about having Burley at wing-back is what he can do when we move forward."

"I'll John Collins and Chris Dailly, who'll be wide on the left, can deliver the ball. Burley will be able to come over the top of Roberto Carlos for the header. He did that very well, you'll remember, when we beat Switzerland at Villa Park in Euro 96."

"When the ball is swung in from the right, Dailly can come over the top of Cafu. Dailly has done that well in the warm-ups."

There has been an unmissable change in mood among Scottish fans. From the pessimism greeting the draw in December, there is now a groundswell of optimism.

"It's not that we've ever make rash predictions," Brown said, "but there is a quiet confidence about our players. They've worked so well with us through the qualifiers for the past two years and in the build-up to this



Fit for champions... Brazil warm up in the Stade de France on the eve of their first defence

TOM JENKINS

Scots in the finals

1930 Uruguay. Did not enter.
1934 Italy. Did not enter.
1938 France. Did not enter.
1950 Brazil. Withdrew from tournament. Places had been left open for the top two teams in the home championship but Scotland decided they would go as champions or not at all. They lost 1-0 to England at Hampden and champed behind.
1954 Switzerland. Beaten in both games, 1-0 by Austria and 7-0 by Uruguay.
1958 Sweden. Drew 1-1 with Yugoslavia. Beaten 3-2 by Paraguay and 2-1 by France. Failed to qualify from group.
1962 Chile. Did not qualify.
1966 England. Did not qualify.
1970 Mexico. Did not qualify.
1974 West Germany. A 2-0 win over Zaire followed by draws with Brazil (0-0) and Yugoslavia (1-1). Failed to qualify from group.
1978 Argentina. Lost 3-1 to Peru, drew 1-1 with Iran, beat Holland 3-2. Failed to qualify from group.
1982 Spain. Beat New Zealand 5-2, lost 4-1 to Brazil and drew 2-2 with USSR. Failed to qualify from group.
1986 Mexico. Lost 1-0 to Denmark and 2-1 to West Germany and drew 0-0 with Uruguay. Failed to qualify from group.
1990 Italy. Lost 1-0 to Costa Rica, beat Sweden 2-1 then lost 1-0 to Brazil. Failed to qualify from group.
1994 United States. Failed to qualify.

Group A: Morocco v Norway

Zagallo backs stylish Norway

Michael Walker in Montpellier

WE ARE the best in the world because we have already won the World Cup four times. We are the best players in the world. France are dangerous because they are playing at home. Italy also. But the surprise could be Norway."

When Mario Zagallo spoke, the Coupe du Monde should listen. Although the Brazil coach was bullish about his own team's prospects and predictable in mentioning France and Italy, the Norway prediction was the eyebrow-raiser for many.

Not in Norway, though, and on reflection nor should it have been elsewhere. It is just over a year since Zagallo took his team to Oslo and saw them take such a battering that he was left wondering aloud which 11 players were the Brazilians.

Egil Olsen's Norway won 4-2 - thereby ending Brazil's unbeaten run which had begun in the 1994 World Cup finals - and went on to win of their own. They will still be on it when they meet Morocco tonight, a series of results that not only saw them coast through their qualifying group but also put six and five goals past Saudi Arabia and Mexico in their preparations for France.

It is the style of Norway's football - and its contrast to their drabness in the United States four years ago - which has excited Zagallo and the Norwegian public alike. And although flair has blossomed, there is still an emphasis on

physical vigour and, from a man proud of his Marxist credentials, direct action.

That Olsen is still prone to such tactics is reflected in the statistic that in only one of their eight qualifiers did Norway fail to score from a dead-ball situation. On Monday, before they jetted off to Montpellier yesterday, a large portion of their training session was spent on free-kicks and corners, and Olsen said afterwards: "We can still improve on free-kicks. Unfortunately we have no real free-kick specialist in the team."

Olsen's words should not be allowed to camouflage Norwegian football's age of enlightenment, which finds personification in the Chelsea striker Tore Andre Flo. Scorer of seven goals in qualification and two against Brazil, the man who will be 25 the day before Norway meet Scotland in six days' time has been dubbed "Ronaldinho" at home, where expectation compels him to talk Norway's chances down.

"People seem to think we will win in France because we have beaten Saudi Arabia 6-0," he said. "However, don't forget they finished that game with nine men. We are not world champions yet."

Brazil can see danger coming from on high

THE Brazilian players and coach Mario Zagallo have gathered to watch tapes of recent Scotland games, in one of the rooms in their luxury hotel in Lesclapart, just off the Leonardo da Vinci in Paris.

And what are the Brazilians expecting to find in their opening game tomorrow afternoon at the new St-Denis stadium? The same difficulties they faced when they played Scotland in the 1974 World Cup which ended in a goalless draw.

Zagallo said: "The Scottish team will form a strong defence and they will try to decide the game with high balls from free-kicks or corner kicks. They have some tall and strong players. Norway has played a similar game, and they have won very often, scoring five, six, goals in a match."

The assistant coach Zico, Brazil's No. 10 in the 1982 team who defeated Scotland 4-1, says he feels they have finally got the "competitive spirit" which was lacking. "I feel the team has their minds on the competition now, they are really concentrated to win. I believe they will get better and better during the World Cup, physically and technically, but this first match against Scotland is crucial to us."

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The Guardian Sport

Wednesday June 10 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk/worldcup

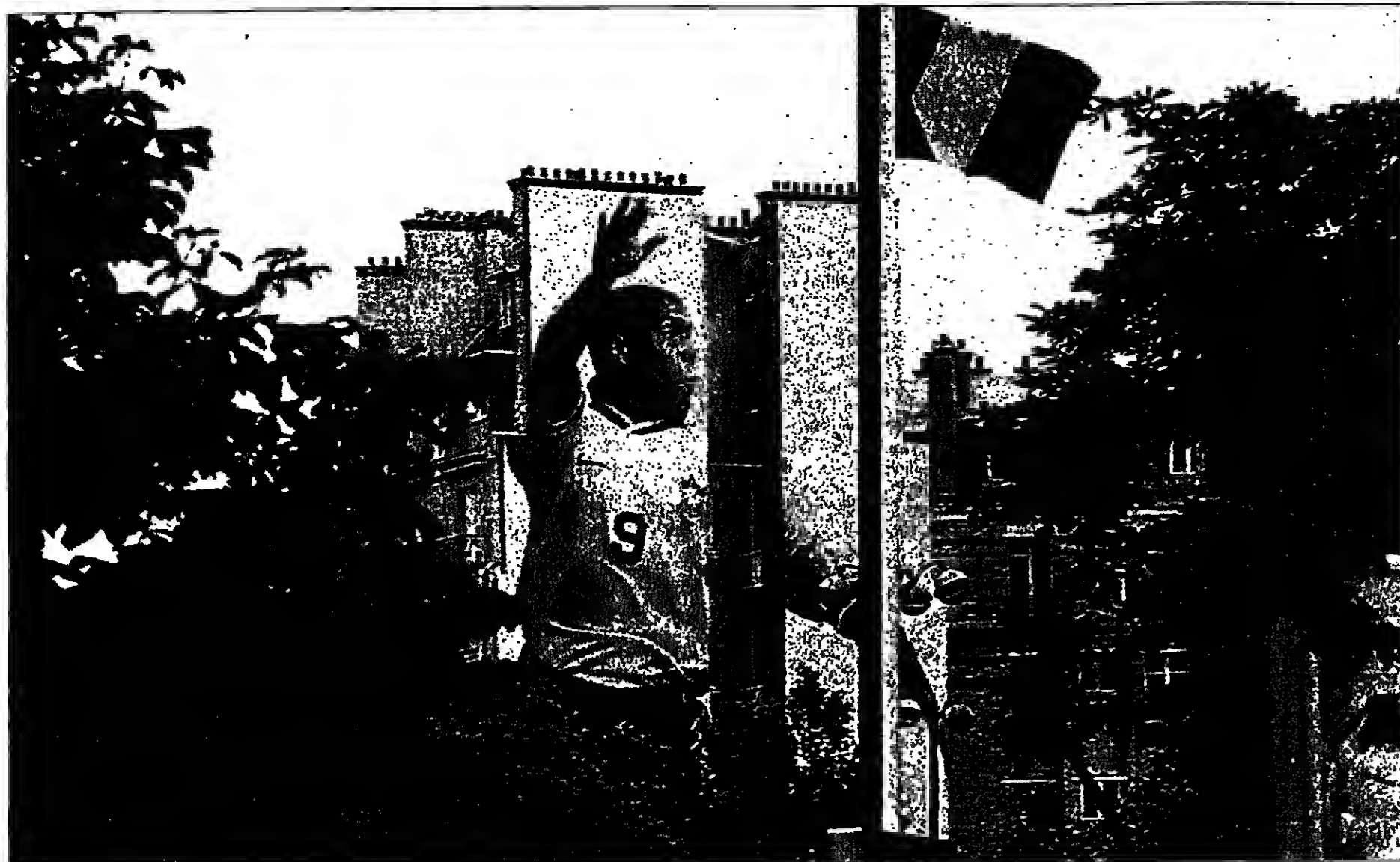


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Surrey crash
Champions
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Leicestershire
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France 98 The countdown to kick-off



Ready to bring the house down... the Brazilian striker Ronaldo casts a giant shadow over Paris on the eve of the finals

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Stuff dreams are made on

David Lacey in Paris says referees hold the key to making it a tournament to remember

THE 1998 World Cup will be a resounding success provided everybody remembers that only in professional wrestling can entertainment be made to order. Spontaneity is the essence of the world's most popular spectator sport — football, that is, not professional wrestling — but by definition things which are hard to predict sometimes never happen. That said, this could turn out to be only the second tournament won by a country from the opposite hemisphere. Brazil, the favourites, took the first of their four titles in Sweden in 1958. Argentina, many people's favourite alternative, are the only other South Americans to reach a final in Europe, losing to West Germany on penalties in Rome in 1990.

Italy, Germany, Holland and France are expected to lead the European challenge, with England, Spain, Yugoslavia, Croatia, Norway, Romania and Bulgaria hoping to force their way up the pecking order. Nigeria look the best of the Africans, South Korea the pick of the remainder and, if there were a prize for happiness, Jamaica would surely win it. Whatever happens, this tournament has some ground to make up after the disappointing denouement four years ago. The 1994 final between Brazil and Italy promised the perfect climax to one

of the more enjoyable competitions. Instead, a sun-bleached Pasadena Rose Bowl spectacle out of its misery by waiving the ball over the bar in the penalty shoot-out. At least the introduction of sudden-death overtime, the "golden goal", will give matches in the knock-out stage a better chance of being settled in open play. This is the biggest World Cup so far. With 32 finalists it is double the size of the tournaments which, from 1954 in Switzerland to 1978 in Argentina, produced some of the best matches featuring many of the outstanding players. Since then the increase in numbers has not been matched by a greater depth of quality, and from 1982 onwards the finals have generally been disappointing. Whether a 64-match competition can hold flickle French interest for five weeks is debatable and will depend heavily on the hosts at least reaching the semi-finals. Since the bulk of the tickets have been sold locally it is essential that French enthusiasm is maintained. Some of the opening games are bound to be thinly attended. There is little danger, for example, of the gates being rushed at the Stade de la Beaujoire when Japan play Croatia in Nantes. But, if

there are vast areas of empty seats during the knock-out stage, it will seem that France has shrugged the World Cup aside. To avoid this the tournament needs to retain a sense of style. In French eyes success is not enough if it is achieved through mere functionalism. Aimé Jacquet's team could win the World Cup and receive only two cheers if the triumph were unaccompanied by the sort of touches to bring back memories of Michel Platini and Jean Tigana. Much, therefore, rests not only with the leading teams and the outstanding individuals — Ronaldo of Brazil, Alessandro Del Piero of Italy,

Argentina's Ariel Ortega, France's Zinedine Zidane, England's Alan Shearer, Holland's Marc Overmars and Dennis Bergkamp, if he is fit, plus numerous others — but on the ability of the referees to strike the right balance between curbing foul play and ensuring that matches flow smoothly. Although strict standards of discipline have to be established at the start and consistently maintained, it should be possible to achieve this without resorting to a non-sensical flood of cards. A first-time winner would be welcome, and France triumphed when they previously hosted a major tournament, winning the 1994 European

Championship with play which satisfied the nation's aesthetic criteria. Holland, beaten in the finals of 1974 and 1978 by West Germany and Argentina, are overdue a success. Spain too, and England have only once progressed beyond the last eight abroad. So far every final has involved at least one of four countries — Brazil, Argentina, Italy and Germany — and there is little reason to suppose this will change. These footballing nations have the World Cup in their corpuscles. The draw provides for a repeat of the 1984 final and a third involving Brazil and Italy. If the tournament goes to form, the semi-finals will be contested by Brazil and Argentina in Marseille and Italy and Germany at St Denis. World Cups, however, are never that neat and the larger the entry the more chance there is of an upset. In 1990 one half of the contest was thrown out of kilter when Cameroon beat the holders Argentina in the opening match. In 1994 Bulgaria's elimination of the 1990 winners Germany in the quarter-finals revived Italy's hopes. The Dutch, semi-finalists last time, have the quality to upset the odds now, as do Yugoslavia. And, although neither division of the British expeditionary force is likely to win the cup, England remain one of the hardest teams to beat. For Scotland, getting past the opening round would be a bearish achievement. As to the likely winners, it comes down to which team are most capable of stopping Brazil, and here Argentina appear the best bet. Italy's chances have not been helped by losing their first-choice goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi but the poorer their start the more likely they are to return to the final, such is the Italian way. An Argentina-Italy final would be a first among equals but a meeting of Brazil and France would promise more, remembering the delights of their 1986 quarter-final in Guadalajara. At this stage, however, such thoughts are just daydreams. It could, for example, be England against Holland at St Denis on July 12. Now there's the stuff that dreams are made on.

England steal hush-hush victory



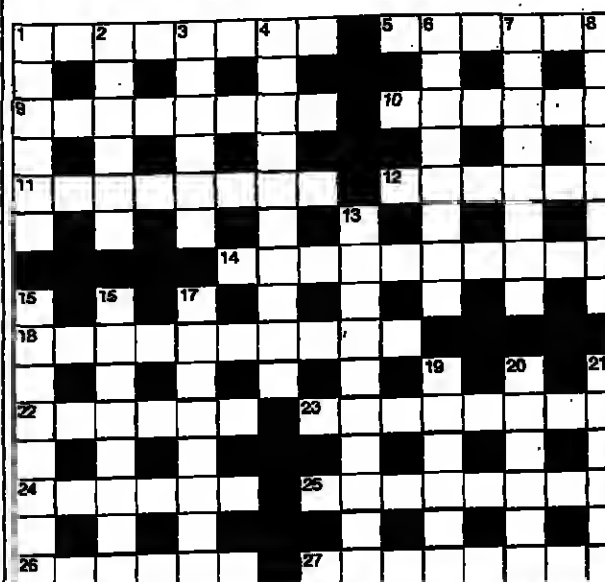
Scholes... winner

PAUL SCHOLES was England's not-so-secret World Cup weapon last night as he filled Paul Gascoigne's midfield position and scored five minutes from time as Glenn Hoddle's team beat Czech 1-0 in northern France. With press and photographers banned from this warm-up with the Second Division club, only around 200 local dignitaries and Caen officials saw Hoddle field a starting line-up, intriguingly, with Michael Owen — and not Teddy Sheringham — partnering

Alan Shearer up front. David Batty was missing from midfield at the start, with Darren Anderton and David Beckham opening. Sol Campbell and Graeme Le Saux, neither fully fit according to Hoddle, appeared to be replaced by Rio Ferdinand and Gareth Southgate at the start. David Seaman dispelled serious injury fears by starting in goal after earlier flying out with heavy strapping around his left thigh. But it was said this was purely precautionary, to protect his dead leg.

Guardian Crossword No 21,297

Set by Logodaedalus



Across

- 1 Della, angry, turning back when thrown off course (8)
- 5 Cooked fat found in bed (8)
- 9 I'm described as a fellow captivating a charmer (8)
- 10 Conserve about to set badly; it's all washed up (8)
- 11 A falsehood, swallowed, about The Nag's Head, leads to anger (8)
- 12 Bouquet turned lady ethically neutral (8)
- 14 Give money to a heel? Not even half a loaf! (10)
- 18 Accountant has date when evenings are light and long (10)
- 22 Everything revealed in awful sentimental song (8)
- 23 An aubergine — mine lies in front of the factory (8)
- 24 Not much like Louisa Alcott's woman (6)
- 25 Fresh fish served up in hostility on time (8)
- 26 A lawman retains information in the schedule (6)
- 27 Food cut about in medicine bottles (8)

Down

- 2 Bunny takes a second to lie under upturned counter (8)
- 3 Man, perhaps; one wants sand put round lake (8)
- 4 German prince stirred tea for voters (10)
- 6 How did Falstaff eat more than often? (8)
- 7 Having a desire to wake up nearly bright (8)
- 8 Agile but with nose blocked by BBC personality! (8)
- 13 An old English supper dish upsets a guildsman (10)
- 15 A way of fermenting ale with basil (Mrs Beeton) (8)
- 16 Look at some letters — breakfast is here (8)
- 17 Dog lying in grass sold to consumer (8)
- 19 To shoot king in mouth (8)
- 20 Box perhaps for sour cream, first class (6)
- 21 Voices from Montana and Wyoming for example (8)

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